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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION ON POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 16 Dec 83) pp 4-8

[Article by Lieutenant General B. P. Utkin, deputy chief, Main Political Administration of the USSR Armed Forces: "Wings of the Heroic Deed"]

[Text] Take a hero to model yourself after...
observe him, follow him;
match his achievement, then better it—
and may the glory be yours!

Let's begin our discussion of the heroic deed, dear reader, with an example. Let's take as our example one of the great multitude of heroic deeds to the credit of our fighting men during the Great Patriotic War. In his book "Ot Stalingrada do Berlina" [From Stalingrad to Berlin], Marshal of the Soviet Union Vasiliy Ivanovich Chuykov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, recalls the following incident.

During the fighting on the Vistula in the summer of 1944 an infantry company commanded by Lieutenant Vladimir Trifonovich Burba had taken up defensive positions in a rye field. As the fighting progressed it became clear that this was the most critical sector of the division's defensive line—it was at this point that the enemy was directing his main attack. Communist Burba set up his defense with great skill. The enemy tanks were met by grenades and antitank weapons fire. The soldiers fired at the vision slits of the tanks with rifles and machine guns, blinding the drivers of the enemy vehicles.

The Hitlerites launched six attacks one after another, but they were unable to break through the line held by our Guardsmen. Then came the seventh attack. The tanks rolled right up to the positions our men were holding. The lieutenant suddenly dashed out toward the lead tank and knocked it out with a string of grenades. But then the second tank was upon him. Unable to see any other way to stop the enemy advance, Burba threw himself with another string of grenades under the approaching vehicle and blew it up.

This communist officer was true to his oath to his dying breath. He stopped the enemy at the price of his own life. Inspired by the heroic deed of their commander, the Guardsmen of his company stood and fought to the death as well. Not one spared his life; they all had but a single thought: to stand and fight and win and in the end revenge themselves upon the enemy for the death of their beloved commander. Private Petr Khlyustin, a small, unassuming, quiet lad from

Smolensk, waited until one of the enemy tanks rolled right up to him and then jumped out of the burning rye with two strings of grenades and threw himself across the path of the approaching vehicle. The first string hit the side of the tank. Just then a burst of machine gun fire riddled the chest of this young hero. As he fell he hurled his second string of grenades under the tracks of the tank. The vehicle did not get any further.

The heroic deeds of Vladimir Burba and Petr Khlyustin became known throughout the entire army that very same day. They were both awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union posthumously.

Now here's an incident from our own day. In the course of a tactical exercise an engineer subunit had been assigned the mission of laying a pontoon bridge across a river within only a short period of time in support of an offensive operation. It was an unruly river. The roaring current continually tried to carry the pontoons away downstream, which only increased the difficulty of linking them together. The powerful current was a real test of how well these troops had mastered their engineer skills.

Working along with the rest of them, putting for his utmost effort, was Private R. Tesak. He had just moved his pontoon into position without the least delay and was about to begin to help secure it in place. Then all of a sudden the truck which had brought up the pontoon slipped into the river and filled with water. It started to go under. But when it rains it pours, as the saying goes. The driver, Junior Sergeant S. Krasnov, try as he might, was unable to open his door.

Without hesitating an instant, Tesak dove to the assistance of his comrade who had just disappeared under the water. The icy water tightened his chest and stung his face and hands. The young soldier struggled to the surface for a breath of air. Then he disappeared under the water again. This time he made it to the cab of the vehicle, but he couldn't get it open. He tried again. Again he failed. There was only one thing left to do—smash the window. He did and was able to drag his comrade out through the hole. A few seconds later and dozens of strong soldier hands were helping both men out of the water.... These pontoneers had accomplished their mission. The military vehicles were rolling over the bridge they had laid at precisely the scheduled time.

It has now become a commonplace to say that among the hundreds of thousands of truly heroic deeds which have been performed, there are no two which are absolutely identical. Each one stands out with its own detail, each shines in its own unique combination of colors. But there is one thing common to all of them, something that ennobles each and every deed, the truly motivating factor in the heroic conduct of Aleksandr Matrosov, General Karbyshev, Zoya Kosmodem'yanskaya, Nikolay Gastello, Aleksey Stakhanov, Zoya Tusnolobova and the military and labor heroes emerging with each passing day in our own time. This critical factor is /a boundless love for the motherland, the party and one's own people, loyalty to one's oath and devotion to military duty, readiness for selfsacrifice, patriotism, total harmony of one's deeds with the basic ideals of our socialist system/ [in boldface].

Aleksandr Ivanovich Pokryshkin, our famous air ace, who was three times awarded the motherland's highest decoration for his heroism, described the heroic deed in these words: "The most important thing about an heroic act, in my view, is the

the fact that it has a social significance. The heroic deed is done in the name of the people.... The most important thing about it is not the risk it involves for the individual himself, but rather the positive social result achieved by a demonstration of bravery and courage...."

Soldier of the motherland! You, her defender, her conscience, her honor and her glory! How many amazing human deed have been accomplished in the name of our beloved motherland! History records a multitude of examples of this kind of loyalty and readiness to sacrifice oneself in the name of the defense of the motherland and her future happiness.

It will commonly be the case that the heroic deed involves something truly exceptional, out of the ordinary, something particularly remarkable. But we can hardly refer to any conduct as truly heroic if we don't see it related to any kind of progressive objective or patriotism or if this conduct is motivated by personal greed or a desire to advertise oneself.

I am thinking at this point of a particular stunt that caused a big stir over in the West, a stunt performed by a couple of American parachutists. Just imagine, now, one of them jumps out of an aircraft and free-falls, no parachute, now, head-long toward the Earth. His pal then leaves the aircraft with two parachutes, catches up with him, maneuvers up close to him and then shares the equipment with him "like a brother." Now, this makes an impact on people, there's no doubt about that. The stunt worked like it was supposed to that time—all their exceedingly precise calculations were correct. But you have to ask yourself, in the name of what were these young men taking this risk? what was the motivating factor behind their decision to place their lives in the hands of people who just wanted to put on an extraordinary show? The answer is more than clear: they were paid cold, hard cash to take this risk, and the publicity their flight got made them famous for a while.

But now just how far apart these two deeds are—a heroic deed which was a product of firm convictions, noble sentiments and a powerful will and a foolhardy, and sometimes downright stupid act, however bold and daring, for the sake of personal gain, notoriety and a desire to idealize the individual person, the "me."

Ambition, the desire for personal glory were the motivating factors behind each and every step toward the peaks of the rigorously demanding Arctic taken by one of the conquerors of this region, Dr. F. Cook. He writes the following entry in his diary in all frankness, as though he were stating some common truth: "I have accomplished what I set out to do in life; my ambition has been satisfied.... We have reached the center of the northern world."

Now to put it mildly, this kind of "common truth" strikes us Soviet people as strange. We have our own conceptions of the meaning of "pride" and our own, immeasurably higher, values: the heroic deed is done in the name of science, for the good of the people or a desire to carry on the heroic traditions of the past.

It was precisely these values that were the pride of participants of a scientific-sporting expedition, which developed into an unparalleled skiing expedition to the North Pole of the planet. Dmitriy Shparo, Candidate of Physical-Mathematical Sciences, a Komsomol Prize winner and the man who led this expedition, recalls the following about those stirring days: "You've accomplished the objective, and you're

standing on the North Pole of the planet as though on a globe with all the meridians coming up to a point under your feet! Our hearts are truly filled with joy. None of us, however, has given any particular thought to heroism, to any personal glory. There was pride, though.... For the fact was that we were carrying on the traditions of earlier Russian explorers. This particular victory is only a modest contribution to the now priceless accumulation of many years of experience in conquering the top of the world."

The exceedingly rich history of our motherland and the struggle of the oppressed masses to liberate themselves have provided coming generations with no small number of examples of heroic accomplishments. "...Russian socialists and the Russian working class," V. I. Lenin was writing as early as 1899, "have already demonstrated their capacity for heroism...." Then to what unprecedented heights did the magnitude of human achievement rise during the years of revolutionary battle and civil war, during the period of the most trying experiences, which befell our motherland during the years of the Great Patriotic War and then during the period which saw them undertaking to build a new life!

Now when we speak of heroic deeds, we should point out first of all that the life and work of the leader of the world proletariat, Vladimir Il'ich Lenin, stand as an unparalleled example. This was a life spent in creative, original work and thought, unceasing revolutionary activity and in ideological and political combat.

Our Leninist party, which in the course of its history has fought truly heroic battles and won equally heroic victories, is now the embodiment of the deepest devotion to the ideas of communism. V. I. Lenin considered one of the most important functions of the Communist Party to be the development in the Soviet people and in the fighting men of the Soviet armed forces of deep ideological conviction and keen political consciousness. He saw these as constituting the very basis of steadfastness and heroism and readiness to in fact do the heroic deed in the name of the motherland and the party and its sacred ideals. "Conviction in the justice of the cause for he is fighting and consciousness of the need to be prepared to sacrifice his own life for the good of his brothers lifts the spirit of the soldier and drives him to endure unheard of difficulties.... This consciousness on the part of the masses of the aims and causes of a war is of enormous importance and constitutes an insurance of victory," V. I. Lenin observed.

Life itself demonstrates convincingly that it is only under the conditions prevailing in a socialist society, with the moral and political unity of its people, that heroism becomes a truly mass-scale phenomenon. It finds particularly extensive manifestation in the effort to defend the socialist fatherland and in the course of just, liberating wars.

How many facets of heroic human accomplishment the Soviet people demonstrated during the most trying circumstances of the Great Patriotic War! From the individual heroic deed to heroism on a mass scale and from the heroic deeds of our fighting men to the heroism of the working man in the rear, who together forged our common victory over the enemy. The heroic feat of blockaded Leningrad, the steadfastness of the Panfilov Guards, the resolution of the defenders of the fortress at Brest, the fearlessness of Nikolay Gastello's crews, the legendary 34's of the Uralmash, the invincibility of Stalingrad.... The list we could make of names, hero cities, Guards military units and examples of workplace heroism is truly endless. Let's give some thought to the following figures.

Over 11,000 Soviet soldiers were awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union, while more than 7 million were decorated with orders and medals distinguished service in combat during the past war. During the period of greatest hardship for the entire country, when the strength of its social system was being tested it appeared that the individual Soviet citizen, too, could perform his heroic deed, and hundreds of sons and daughters of the motherland did in fact perform them. Some three hundred of them duplicated the feat of Aleksandr Matrosov, while hundreds of soldiers of the Great Patriotic War had heroic deeds to their credit of the likes of those performed by Nikolay Gastello and Viktor Talalikhin. These facts and figures bear out once again the living force of Lenin's prediction that /our country is not only capable of producing individual heroes, it will be able to bring forth these heroes in by the hundreds and the thousands/ [in boldface].

Among the multitude of heroes who have glorified the motherland with their immortal deeds I would like particularly to single out the shock army of our communists. The party has considered the inculcation of Marxist-Leninist ideology in the consciousness of the Soviet people to be one of its most important educational missions and has inspired our fighting men to the performance of heroic deeds. The party assigned its best cadres to military positions, people who had been steeled both at the front and in the course of doing ideological battle. The influence the communists exerted both personally and by way of their personal example played an enormous mobilizing role and inspired to the performance of heroic deeds. "Any time things began to go badly for us during the war," V. I. Lenin wrote, "the party mobilized its communists, and it would be for the most part in the front ranks that they would die, and they died by the thousands in front-line fighting against Yudenich and Kolchak. Dying here were the best people the working class had to offer, people who sacrificed themselves in the awareness that while they might die, they would be saving future generations and thousands and thousands of workers and peasants."

The cry "Communists, forward!" first heard in battles against the interventionists and White Guards found wings again in later struggles against enemies of our motherland. Communists exploited to the full the privilege that was theirs and theirs alone—the privilege of being in the vanguard, where the need was most pressing and the danger the greatest.

These young party members and their appeals had remarkably high powers of attraction. Others believed in them, had confidence in them, took them as personal models for emulation and followed their lead into the most difficult of situations. How many personal declarations were heard, how many notes simply left behind before the writers would go into battle: "If I die, just say I was a communist." And they went into battle not for the sake of any personal glory, but rather for the sake of life on Earth.

In even the most difficult and what would appear to have been hopeless situations, which were so frequently the fate of the front-line soldier in the course of the Great Patriotic War, communists were always found to remain true to their party responsibilities and to the oath they had sworn, in which they pledged their loyalty to the motherland.

I had more than one occasion in my day to meet up with Hero of the Soviet Union Mikhail Petrovich Devyatayev. How remarkable have been the fortunes of this man! During one of those unequal air engagements against seven enemy aircraft, he was wounded and burned and just barely able to bail out of his burning aircraft. But instead of being rescued, he was captured, thrown in a concentration camp, interrogated and tortured. The records of one of these interrogations conducted so pedantically by the Gestapo preserve the following entry: "Convinced communist. The crematorium's the answer to types like this."

But even under these most difficult conditions Devyatayev continued to fight. Devising a plan of escape, the group of prisoners he was leading did in fact manage to break out of the hell of the concentration camp. In a Heinkel liberated from the enemy, Devyatayev and nine comrades were able to fly off this "island of death" and back across the front line.

Mikhail Petrovich took his leave of aviation in time, but not of his wings. High-speed boats with underwater wings have now taken him farther through life. Hero of the Soviet Union M. P. Devyatayev served as the captain of our country's first hydrofoil. He put in a lot of hours on those stretches of the Volga in his Rockets and Meteors. He was also an instructor captain.

We have always been accustomed in our army life to seeing our commanders up front taking the lead. At the head of the formation. In the attacking line. Leading their men to the heights of mastery of professional military skills. What great authority the front-line commander carried, a man in whom the motherland had reposed great trust, whom she had empowered to control manpower, to give orders, to solve the most difficult of military problems and to give a lead in winning victory over the enemy. Here are only a few from the multitude of possible examples.

The heroic deed performed in fighting on the Dnieper by Captain V. S. Petrov, deputy commander of a tank-destroyer regiment, could have constituted no clearer a demonstration of the height of the human spirit and limitless bravery and courage.

On that particular September night in 1943 it was essential at any cost to land on the right bank of the Dnieper, consolidate a position and hold it until the arrival of the main forces. The artillerymen were among the first to fight their way onto a small beachhead on the opposite bank, which they proceeded to attempt to consolidate; they immediately felt the full force of enemy's attacks, the rage of a beast doomed to die.

The battle rages on without letup for a second day. In the deadly rush of events the dead went uncounted. It was nevertheless becoming increasingly difficult for the gun crews, now with fewer and fewer men left available to man the weapons, to repel the enemy tank attacks, only one or two men remaining at each position. Petrov himself directed the fire and was at the same time able personally to take out four tanks and two 6-barrel mortars. At one point, when one of the batteries lost its last man, Petrov and his orderly dashed to the position, and the two of them continued to deliver fire from the weapon. Petrov was seriously wounded on both hands during the fighting, but he did not leave the battlefield as long as there remained another enemy counterattack to beat back.

The doctors did the impossible—they saved the hero's life, but they had to amputate both his hands. And what kind of will power do you have to have to then return to your regiment at the front line of the war? And how then to be able to fight? By the time the fighting for Dresden was over, regiment commander Colonel V. S. Petrov had twice been decorated Hero of the Soviet Union. Lieutenant General of Artillery Vasilii Stepanovich Petrov has now been permanently inscribed on the roster of Soviet Army cadres. Would there be any need to describe the effort this man had to put forth to complete a course of training at a university, defend a dissertation, write all the books he has—priceless reminiscences of his service at the front...?

As a participant in the fighting on the Dnieper myself, I find the appeal of the heroic deeds of our front-line commanders particularly moving. Also among those against whom we measured ourselves was Major General Vasil'yev, commander of the 49th Infantry Corps, a highly gifted commander of extraordinary bravery and courage. Under fierce enemy fire, he crossed to the right bank of the Dnieper along with the first of his assault subunits and from that position directed both the crossing of the remainder of his forces and the fighting which followed in the effort to hold and secure the bridgehead they had occupied.

Now if a man knows his commander is in the lead, in the very thick of the fighting do you really think he's going to sit out the action in his foxhole or hesitate at a critical moment? Of course not.

The strength of our army is to a great extent a function of the maturity and professional skill of our commanders and political personnel and their ability to organize and direct their men and provide proper education for the development of reliable, selflessly devoted defenders of the motherland. But if today's military leaders have the priceless weapon of front-line experience in their personal arsenals as well, this will truly be of inestimable advantage. It is precisely this sort of invaluable front-line experience that we now see embodied in General of the Army Petr Georgiyevich Lushev, commander of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District, and General of the Army Mikhail Mitrofanovich Zaytsev, commander-in-chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, both of whom have made major contributions to efforts to increase troop combat readiness. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union, with which they have recently been honored, testifies to both the front-line service and present-day merits of these prominent Soviet military leaders.

We will frequently hear people ask: where did these front-line veterans find such reserves of spiritual and physical strength? How are we to account for the accomplishment of these hundreds and thousands of actions, truly heroic deeds, which have astonished the entire world? Our motherland's heroic past and the combat experience of veterans of the Great Patriotic War give us a basis for declaring that the high morale and fighting qualities which make the Soviet man invincible are the product of /loyalty to the ideals of communism, consciousness of the rightness of his cause and love for the fatherland/ [in boldface].

Time has marched inexorably on, however, and it is now no longer years, but decades which separate us from that heroic period of wartime adversity. Sons and grandsons are replacing fathers and grandfathers in our military formations. The passage of time, however, has been unable to erase the memory of the heroic deeds of the battles of the past. The deeds of our heroes instruct and educate the young generation,

which cherishes the memory of the battlefield and workplace heroism of years gone by. The world today, our labors both in military uniform and at the workplace in industry, remind us again and again of the truth of Gor'kiy's saying: /"There's always a place for the heroic deed in life"/ [in boldface].

For is there not in fact some similarity between the heroism demonstrated by Private G. Migradzov, who covered a live grenade with his body and in so doing saved the lives of his comrades, and the heroism of the front-line wartime battlefield? And upon what basis would we distinguish between the heroic labors of those who built our Magnitka and the people who are building the Baykal-Amur Trunk Line? We could go on and on with a multitude of such comparisons. But the thing is that they give us powerful indications of the generational continuity involved here, of the continuation of our heroic traditions from one generation to another and of the high moral-political qualities which, like a precious gift, have been handed down to us today and have become integral aspects of the Soviet way of life.

I recall the photograph of a young officer on the front page of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA one time. Smart-looking, good appearance and bearing, a certain energy to the sparkle in his eye. On his chest the For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces, 3d Class. This was Guards Captain Sergey Popov, a tank battalion chief of staff. This front-line veteran's son has a lot of the personal qualities of his father, Nikolay Ivanovich Popov, a tanker, holder of five combat decorations, who drove his 34 to the very walls of prostrate Berlin. This former front-line fighter is understandably proud that his son is faithfully continuing the career which he himself had pursued and like his comrades-in-arms cherishes deeply the traditions of the past and is striving to add his own contribution in passing them on.

In the Red Banner Volga Military District, with which more than a few years of my own military career are associated, I have had the opportunity to make the acquaintance of Lieutenant Andrey Obukhov, who, too, is continuing the course taken by his father, a Hero of the Soviet Union and a meritorious front-line pilot, and Lieutenant Andrey Baryshnikov, who is following the course of schooling pursued by his father, also a Hero of the Soviet Union and a pilot in our civil aviation. Entire family dynasties, the Mikheyevs and the Plimpiyevs for example, have linked their careers with the Ulyanovsk Guards Higher Tank Command School imeni V. I. Lenin.

Today we refer to the training we give our troops as "combat" training, because we can develop and refine the best fighting qualities and command skills under conditions maximally approximating those to be encountered in actual combat. For the fact is that it is under precisely these training conditions, in stressful situations in which events develop rapidly, that trainees demonstrate the level of their morale, their psychological stability, their ideological temper, the level to which they have developed their physical and professional skills and their capacity for heroism comparable to the heroic deeds of our front-line veterans.

I think many readers will recall this particular incident from the large-scale Zapad-81 training exercise. An air assault landing operation was under way at one point. Guards Lieutenant Nalivayko's men were jumping smoothly one after another. Jumping in line after Guards Private L. Manokha was Guards Junior Sergeant A. Uporov. At that point a sharp gust of wind suddenly blew Uporov into the lines of Manokha's still incompletely opened parachute. The canopies of the

parachutes of both jumpers began rapidly to collapse. There would have been a real disaster had they not demonstrated their intelligence, presence of mind and bravery in this critical situation. A few seconds were enough for one of them very skillfully to cut the lines which had become entangled and the other to open the reserve chute. Both these brave men were then soon in their positions in the attacking line. Where the outcome of the "battle" was being decided.

In this discussion of the heroic deed I would like to give particular attention to /the heroism demonstrated in everyday life at the work place/ [in boldface]. As V. I. Lenin expressed it, the creative, productive activities in which the Soviet people are engaged and the military effort involved in defending the socialist fatherland require "the most sustained, the most consistent everyday, mass-scale labor heroism." The labor heroism displayed by the Soviet people and the daily effort put forth by members of the armed forces in discharging their regular duty-day responsibilities and their continuous concern for the maintenance of a high level of combat readiness, both these efforts provide dramatic evidence of a desire to give one's all, to include, if it comes to it, one's life as well in the name of the happiness and welfare of the beloved motherland, for the triumph of the ideas of the great Lenin and for the bright future ahead—communism. When extraordinary circumstances develop, whether in wartime or in peacetime, this inner preparedness will result in heroic action, spark the performance of the heroic deed.

When we talk about the kind of soil that produces the heroic deed in the course of the mass, daily round in the work place we will inevitably get around to a discussion of such things as the community of interests involved, unity of will and action, solidarity and cohesion etc. This unity during the past war was, for example, the inexhaustible force drawn upon in the defense of the Brest fortress, Leningrad, Moscow, Sevastopol', Stalingrad and Odessa. The heroism demonstrated by the fighters in the Great Patriotic War who stood in defense of their native land against the Hitlerite invasion was not the transient heroic deed, but rather a sustained heroism to be measured in months and years.

But now what standard do we use to measure the courage and mass-scale heroism of those who went into mortal combat with the enemy to win back our land from the aggressors? The larger picture—the liberated country as a whole, or a city—is, of course, more visible, more ponderable. But how many engagements, large and small, there must have been for a little hill or a tiny village you won't find on any map. The war years saw thousands of soldiers, from the lowliest rank-and-file fighter to the marshal, do their terribly duty at the front. They were fighting to win a long-awaited victory, enduring in the process the incredible hardships of those years at the front.

We speak, now, with no less pride of the heroes of the rear and the mass-scale heroism they displayed on a daily basis. "Everything for the front, everything for victory!"—the slogan on red calico hanging in the factory shop was stern and direct. But who doesn't know the price tag on each tank rolling out the plant gates, of each aircraft taking off for an air base at the front from the plant runway or of each batch of shells so eagerly awaited up there at the front.

How could we not but recall here these stirring lines from the song "Den' Pobedy" [Victory Day]:

For days and nights on end at her open-hearth furnaces
Our motherland never closed her eyes.
For days and nights on end we waged our battle on the labor front —
We were trying to bring this day as close as we could.

Collective, mass-scale heroism exhibits its own unique characteristics. During the war, units and formations which had particularly distinguished themselves were awarded orders, given the Guards designation and named after cities they had liberated in combat. Here, for example, is the designation of one of our units doing honorable service in our forward area—a unit of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: Guards Red Banner Order of Lenin, Order of Kutuzov Proskurovsko-Berlinskiy Tank Regiment imeni G. I. Kotovskiy. Now that "calling card" says a lot, you'll have to admit. And if you consider the fact that this regiment was one of the initiators of socialist competition within the Armed Forces last year and that it was able to fulfill the demanding obligations it had undertaken with honor, you can see that the hero of past years has a successor worthy of the name as well.

How, now, do we deal with the question of developing this kind of courage in our fighting men, in our young people, today, how much lift do the wings of the heroic deed have today?

/The Marxist-Leninist world view/ [in boldface] — this is the basis for full and proper comprehension of the essential nature of the phenomena of contemporary social life and for developing in the Soviet people a true communist consciousness and a conviction of the rightness of our communist ideals. This most important proposition has been embodied in the materials from the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum, which referred to the particular importance of inculcating a scientific, Marxist-Leninist world view in the Soviet people. "It is precisely this," it was declared at the plenum, "that makes communists, the working masses into conscious political fighters capable of evaluating various social phenomena on their own, of seeing the link between the tasks of the present day and our ultimate objectives and of carrying on a soundly argued polemic with any ideological adversary."

This methodological conception applies in full measure to the military as well, to our entire system of training and educating the defenders of the motherland. It is quite rightly said that "heroes are made, not born." And the firmer the communist conviction, the deeper into the soldier's consciousness will penetrate his awareness of the personal responsibility he bears for the security of the motherland, her labors and her tranquillity, the greater his sense of personal responsibility for properly discharging his military duties, adhering to the obligations imposed by his oath and for carrying out the orders of his commanders and other superiors and the more actively and intensively such qualities courage, steadfastness, bravery and heroism will take root and develop in the course of practical, everyday duty performance. Communist ideological conviction is a spiritual component of personality—it is a composite of knowledge, conviction and practical activity.

Numerous heroic deeds in the history of our motherland stand as truly dramatic examples of the loftiest flight of the human spirit and of unshakable belief in

the rightness of the cause for which the best sons and daughters of the fatherland have fought and laid down their lives. Remember the unbending D. M. Karbyshv, who in response to various promises the Hitlerites were making him in an effort to get him to turn traitor looked them straight in the face and declared: "...my convictions don't fall out with my teeth because there aren't enough vitamins in your prison ration." /Conviction—this is truly the wings of courage/ [in boldface].

The individual heroic deed is a powerful means of inspiring comrades and fellow service members. The heroism of Aleksandr Matrosov not only helped insure the success of the offensive, it also inspired his comrades-in-arms in battle against the hated enemy and gave them added spiritual strength, greater steadfastness, greater courage.

The heroic deed is progress toward an objective, toward victory, toward a noble end. The higher the objective and the morality of the motives, the greater will be the heroism and the more the people can benefit by it.

Professional /duty/ [in boldface] and the utmost in human courage were the critical factors in the heroism of bacteriologists Il'ya Mechnikov, Nikolay Gamaleya and Vladimir Khavkin, who in their search for a drug which could be used against cholera tested the effect of cholera bacilli on themselves. "I just had to do it," Andryusha Zykov, a fifth-year student from Irkutsk, declared after rescuing three small children from a burning house. "How could I do otherwise, they're all part of me," insisted Aleksandra Avramovna Derevskaya, a plain-spoken Sumskiy worker who during the war adopted and raised 48 children of different nationalities.

"I have to," "It's my duty," "I couldn't do otherwise"—you will hear these words, as a rule, from people who have in fact performed a truly heroic deed. Among the factors motivating this conduct you will then find "duty"—civic or military, professional or party, family duty or duty to friends.

The act of discharging one's duty itself is an excellent school for developing high moral qualities. I recall Goethe's famous phrase: "Try to discharge your duty, and you will discover what you have inside you." If you really want to discover "what you have inside," I think the best thing to do would be to put yourself through the school of army or navy life. For it is rightly said that "the keys to heroism in battle will be found in the military training in peacetime."

Yes, it's true, military service tempers the will and prepares you for and leads you to the performance of heroic deeds. Military duty, however, is not just an abstraction. It is a composite of many contributing factors: the responsibility of the individual human being to society as a whole, extensive knowledge, general and specialized education and a strong personal will which in turn transforms knowledge and convictions into concrete deeds and accomplishments. Only the man who discharges his duties will be capable of performing heroic deeds.

Military duty performance constitutes the basis upon which we undertake to train young people to defend the motherland and the primary means we employ to develop in them those moral, political, fighting and psychological qualities required to

prevail over a powerful, technically well-equipped, but crude and morally depraved enemy.

The educational role of military duty performance is defined above all by the fact that in the process of actually discharging his military duty an individual begins to develop his mastery of the knowledge, skills and procedures employed in modern-day warfare. It is precisely the creation during exercises, instructional sessions, fire training and driver training exercises of situations maximally approximating those to be encountered in actual combat that helps us develop in our personnel an ability to master their own personal conduct and to develop within themselves the psychological preparedness required to function in modern-day warfare.

In accomplishing the various practical tasks involved in the operation of complex equipment, in overcoming obstacles and in developing the capacity for enduring the hardships and deprivations of life in field, our troops begin to develop the desired morale and fighting qualities as they go about the performance of their assigned military duties.

As a rule, the heroic deed will be associated with extensive knowledge, professional competence and solid practical skills and capabilities. Look back for a moment upon the career that took our space heroine Svetlana Savitskaya to her rendezvous with the stars: flying club, world high-speed piloting championship, the establishment of 18 world records and then test flying for the noted Yakovlev design bureau.

Military duty, which is an expression of society's moral requirement that an individual defend his socialist fatherland, finds its legal support in the military oath and regulations. Time, improvements in the means and methods employed in military training and education and the scientific-technical revolution have repeatedly required the amendment of these documents regulating military life and work. Even now, however, the legal and moral obligations of the military serviceman remain unchanged: /as a competent citizen of the USSR, he assumes the obligation to stand in defense of his motherland bravely and steadfastly and to remain true to her to his last breath/ [in boldface].

As was underlined at the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum, all of our educational and propaganda programs should take account of the characteristic features of the particular historical moment through which mankind is then living. And our own historical moment has been marked by an antagonism between two directly opposed world views, two political orientations—socialism and imperialism,—which in the entire postwar period is unprecedented in its sharpness and intensity. There is a struggle under way for the hearts and minds of the billions of people on the planet. The future of mankind depends in no small degree upon the outcome of this ideological struggle.

The "crusade" against communism, against the USSR and the other countries of the socialist commonwealth declared by U.S. President Reagan was not just a slogan, but rather an enunciation of the foreign policy program of the U.S. and NATO. The primary orientation of this program can be clearly identified: to prepare by all available means to destroy socialism as a social and political system. This objective finds expression in all measures of an economic, political, ideological and military nature.

In today's complex international situation, a situation in which the forces of imperialism led by the U.S. are attempting to push the world to the very brink of nuclear catastrophe, our party has warned the advocates of war repeatedly against the danger of slipping off into the abyss. "Over the course of the six and one-half decades of its existence, the Soviet state has successfully measured up to a great many challenges, a number of them exceedingly difficult ones," Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has declared. "Those who have made attempts against the integrity of our state, its independence, our system have all ended up on the trash heap of history. It is high time that all those to whom this may apply understand clearly that we will be able to guarantee the security of both our own country and those of our friends and allies under any circumstances."

Before we conclude our discussion I would like to draw your attention to one other component of the heroic deed, and that is **/loyalty to the revolutionary, labor and fighting traditions of our people, our party and our army/ [in boldface]**. The glorious history of our motherland contains a multitude of examples of selfless devotion to our beloved fatherland and records the magnitude of the accomplishment on the both the labor and fighting fronts for the sake of the freedom and independence of our country, of the effort to make her prosperous and strong.

The army family pays particular honor to its traditions. Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin has declared that its traditions must be propagandized such that each and every new recruit coming in to a regiment learns not only its number, but its entire military history, all its heroes and combat decorations and all its victories in competition and maneuvers precisely so that he will take pride in his regiment and defend its honor in any situation.

The glorious history of our valiant Armed Forces, the deeds of their heroes in battles past, the weapons and the priceless documents of the years of front-line fighting—in a word, extraordinarily rich propaganda arsenal of our museums and Combat Glory Rooms—these are not simply the carefully preserved pages of the past. They also constitute a great living school in which our young people learn and develop their loyalty to the beloved motherland along with a desire to carry on these glorious traditions and add the contributions of their own heroic deeds of today.

The meetings they have scheduled with party, war and labor veterans, the all-Union Letopis' Velikoy Otechestvennoy [Annals of the Great Patriotic War] search expedition, the Zarnitsa and Orlenok militarized games, the activities of the Krasnyye sledopyty [Red Hunters] and Iskatel' [Searcher] clubs and other activities all are powerful sources of ideological strength for those "making their way further into the revolution."

"There's always a place for the heroic deed in life." Our own experience convincingly demonstrates the vital force of Gor'kiy's famous phrase. Now to conclude our discussion I would like to turn to the following lines from a poem by Valentin Sorokin, who penned them to mark the unveiling of a statue honoring Aleksandr Matrosov in Halle (GDR):

The centuries, troubled or peaceful, will mark the passage of time,
as trains the distance winding for versts,
Now I remembered, I understood, of course,
Each heroic deed marks another
step for mankind toward true brotherhood and the stars!

Yes, that's right! Each and every heroic deed is in fact "another step for mankind toward true brotherhood," and at the same time a challenge, a call for us, the living today, to measure ourselves against these heroes past and, like them, to love our great motherland with a selfless love and to hate her enemies with an implacable hate.

History's clock has now begun to count down a new year—1984. The Soviet people and the fighting men of their valiant Armed Forces are going into this year with a feeling of creative inspiration. Heirs to the battlefield and work-place victories of past generations now bear the obligation to add their own pages to the heroic historical record of the Land of Soviets. "Military service in the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces," Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, USSR Minister of Defense, has declared, "gives our soldiers a firm political foundation and solid technical and professional knowledge and teaches them collectivism, persistence and endurance."

To be a fighter for the party and a soldier in the army of labor and for the motherland is a source of great happiness. Our efforts, knowledge, creative enthusiasm and searching and our extraordinary wealth of past experience—all these things are subordinate to the needs of the country and its progress and to efforts to make it stronger. Heroes are still to be found at our work places. If the occasion requires it, we will also see more heroes on the battlefield standing in defense of the honor, freedom and independence of our motherland, our brothers of class and our comrades-in-arms.

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

BOOK REVIEW: 'THE ARMS RACE AND LIBERATED NATIONS'

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH S'' in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 20 Dec 83) pp 91-93

[Review by Lt Col N. Karasev, candidate of economic sciences, of book "Gonka vooruzheniy i osvobodivshiesya strany" [The Arms Race and the Liberated Nations] by E. S. Nukhovich, Nauka Press, Moscow, 1983, 208 pages]

[Text] In striving to distract the liberated countries from the fundamental questions of social and economic development, the imperialist powers are drawing them into global military preparations. This is becoming one of the most important tools for preserving the exploiter system of relations and involving young states in the arms race. In the book by E. Nukhovich, "The Arms Race and the Liberated Nations," which was published by the Nauka Press, one of the first attempts at an integrated study of this extremely reactionary trend in world development is undertaken.

Acquaintance with the work being reviewed permits the reader to draw a number of conclusions. The first of them is that an intensification of militarization of all spheres of relations between monopolistic capital and the developing countries is now occurring. The basic reason for this situation, as the author correctly notes, is the sharp growth in the aggressiveness of imperialism and the striving of its most reactionary circles to weaken world socialism, achieve military-strategic superiority over it, and counterattack the international worker and national liberation movement. The United States and other Western powers are trying to use the developing countries with their multimillion-person population as a reserve for the "rejuvenation" of the entire capitalist system through its development in "breadth." This is why the imperialists look upon the zone of national liberation as the arena of direct opposition to socialism.

The aggressive policy of the United States in the Near and Middle East can serve as graphic confirmation of what has been said. Achieving a build-up of its military presence in this most important strategic region of the world and the creation of military springboards here, in the immediate proximity of the USSR's southern borders, Washington is intensively spreading the version of a "Soviet threat" to the oil riches of the Persian Gulf and routes for the transportation of oil. The falsity of this version was convincingly exposed from the rostrum of the 26th CPSU Congress, for its authors know full well that the Soviet Union has no intention to encroach on either the former or the latter.

Another reason for the intensification of militarization of imperialism's relations with the liberated countries is the collapse of the colonial system. Young sovereign states have arisen in the place of former colonies and semi-colonies. Their peoples are defending their political and economic rights with increasing energy, which causes the animosity and aggressiveness of the imperialist powers. E. Nukhovich's book contains the following generalization: over the entire postwar period imperialism has not rejected the use of force in the struggle against the national-liberation movement. Doctrines and the names of military blocs changed and reliance on open military interference was replaced by secret subversive operations, but imperialism's striving to halt the further development of the national-liberation struggle of peoples and to isolate liberated countries from their loyal and reliable friends--the countries of the socialist commonwealth--remained unchanged. Today, under the conditions of the actual elimination of the colonial system the West's reactionary circles, openly having recourse to procedures employing force, are striving to take revenge for their defeats in the regions of national liberation.

The increase in the military-strategic activity of the United States and NATO in the developing countries is caused also by the strengthening of the former colonies' economic position in the international arena. This thesis is disclosed in detail in the work being reviewed. The author notes that the industrially developed capitalistic states are satisfying their requirement for many types of raw and energy materials through deliveries from the young countries. According to data in the American weekly BUSINESS WEEK, at the start of the 1980's of 28 basic types of strategic raw materials the United States was self-sufficient in only 6 and satisfied its requirement in the remainder by 50 to 100 percent through imports, in which regard primarily from developing countries. Setting their hopes on military force, the imperialists are counting on ensuring for themselves the capability, as formerly, to plunder the national wealth of sovereign states. For example, the power companies of the United States import 700 million tons of oil annually from the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, obtaining up to 10 million dollars in profits from these operations. At the same time, the Pentagon is allocated at least 50 billion dollars for the 1980's to support gendarme functions in protecting the predatory interests of transnational corporations in the oil-bearing regions of the Arab East.

Among the reasons which are intensifying the militarization of the relations of neocolonialism, E. Nukhovich also mentions growing interimperialist competition and the process of differentiation of the developing countries which was noted by the 26th CPSU Congress. It is stressed in the book that the elaboration of imperialism's global strategy is occurring under conditions of a sharp aggravation of interimperialist contradictions. The author presents statements of foreign observers that "one of the reasons for intensification of United States' aggressiveness in the 1980's is hidden in the attempts of American imperialism to wrest what was seized by the competing imperialist powers."

At the 26th CPSU Congress it was noted that the countries which were liberated from colonial oppression are very diverse. After liberation, some of them set out on the revolutionary-democratic path. In others capitalist relations were established. Some of them are conducting a genuinely independent policy while

others are going along with the policy of imperialism today. Relying on the documents of the Congress, E. Nukhovich shows that a number of countries of Latin America, the Near East, and Southeast Asia are demonstrating "tolerance" toward the penetration of the military machine of the United States and other NATO countries in them. This, unquestionably, leads to the ever more complete drawing of the young states into the orbit of militarism.

The second basic conclusion which flows from an analysis of the book being reviewed is that militarized neocolonialism comes forth today in the most varied forms and encompasses the spheres of political, economic, and ideological relations between imperialism and the liberated countries.

The author stresses correctly that the West's aggressive actions against a number of young sovereign states is a special danger to the cause of peace. It is widely known that after World War II the imperialist countries and, first of all, the United States, unleashed more than 200 wars and military conflicts for neocolonial purposes.

It is noted in the book that the gross armed interference in the affairs of the young liberated countries on the part of the NATO powers, and especially of the United States, is continuing actively even today. With the Reagan administration, this reactionary course has acquired even more impudent forms. The United States committed direct aggression against Grenada. With the participation of the White House, genuine genocide has been unleashed in Salvador and subversive actions are being accomplished against Nicaragua and the national-liberation forces of Guatemala. Military provocations and constant threats addressed toward Cuba have attained threatening scales. The United States is waging an undeclared war against Afghanistan to an ever increasing degree. Libya is being subjected to constant military pressure. The United States is continuing active military operations in Lebanon.

In the work it is stressed that imperialism's permanent military presence is now increasing in the zone of the national-liberation movement. The author notes that the United States and NATO have created numerous military installations, including big bases, in many countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Contingents of the imperialist powers' armed forces are leployed on them. Naval forces, for example the U.S. 6th and 7th Fleets, are located in various regions of the world ocean. The United States' creation of a new type of interventionist-gendarme forces called "rapid deployment forces" presents great danger to the cause of the peace and security of peoples. All this is a permanently operating factor which ensures the conduct of a neocolonialist policy "from a position of strength."

E. Nukhovich directs the reader's attention to the fact that in recent years plans for spreading the activity of NATO to regions of national liberation are being nurtured in imperialist circles. In addition, efforts are being undertaken to "revive" CENTO and to create all possible new "mini-" and "maxi-" blocs in various regions of the world. Practical steps are being taken for the creation of the METO (Middle East Treaty Organization) military alliance under the aegis of the United States. At the same time, the imperialist powers are displaying special activity in knocking together a new aggressive bloc in the area of the South Atlantic, the so-called SATO. In recent years the United

States, Japan, and Great Britain have been urging in an intensified manner the countries of ASEAN (Associated Southeast Asian Countries, consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines) toward the creation of a military alliance on the basis of this regional organization. In short, imperialism's feverish military-political activity in the developing states is present.

The work examines in detail the place of the arms trade and military-economic "assistance" within the framework of militarized neocolonialism. Imperialism is trying to place a certain base under its aggressive course and is striving to create a system of dependent relations between its centers and the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America by expanding first of all the geography of military production and sales markets for various types of armaments. On the basis of an analysis of factual material the author elucidates the fact that the volume of weapons sales from the countries of the West to the former colonies in the 1970's exceeded four-fold the scales of this trade in the 1960's and eight-fold that in the 1950's. As we see, the growth is rather significant.

The third basic conclusion which can be drawn in reading the book is the conclusion concerning the perniciousness of the consequences of militarized neocolonialism for the peoples of the liberated countries. Drawing the developing countries into the arms race and into deals for the sale of arms, the imperialists are trying to establish new forms of dependence. Expansion of the scales of military production in the developing countries inevitably entails a growth in the number of armed clashes and conflicts.

The militarization of the economy of a number of liberated countries which is being stimulated by the West is creating serious difficulties for the young states, contributing to a growth in unemployment and indebtedness to imperialism, inhibiting the development of a national system of education and public health, and hindering the successful struggle against hunger and disease. In addition, in this way imperialism is trying to shift the main burdens of crisis shocks and galloping inflation to the developing countries.

The share of the liberated states is 15 percent of the industrial production of the capitalist world. They are bearing the burden of more than 17 percent of the world expenditures on armaments. Here the military expenditures of the developing countries have a trend toward further growth. Simultaneously poverty, starvation, and disease in young states are assuming the nature of genuine peoples' disasters. Extremely significant facts on this account are presented in the book. The mean duration of life in many countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America does not exceed 55 years, there are only 3 doctors per 10,000 of population, only 47 percent of the children have the opportunity to attend school, 44 million teenagers are forced to work, and 200 million children are constantly starving. Undoubtedly, this has an extremely negative effect on new generations of people in the developing countries.

The militarization of public life of an entire series of young states which is being instigated by imperialism diverts significant labor resources from the national economy. For example, in Pakistan there is one serviceman for each eight industrial workers, in Chile--for each four, and in Egypt--for each three. And you see, as a rule technically trained national cadres are recruited into the armed forces.

This is why, in speaking at the 7th Conference of Heads of States and Governments of Unaligned Countries the First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and Chairman of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Fidel Castro, stressed: "For us, members of the movement of nonalignment, the struggle against war is directed not only at preventing universal destruction, but also at the defense of our own direct political interests. We are all convinced that social and economic development is impossible without the presence of peace."

The author of the work being reviewed proceeded correctly when he drew the broad panorama of the growing struggle of the liberated countries against the arms race and neocolonialism. Here, he thoroughly showed the strengthening of the mutual ties and collaboration with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist commonwealth as an historic necessity for developing states and a guarantee of the strengthening of their national independence and independent social and economic development. The author's conclusion that resistance to military neocolonialism is increasing from year to year looks convincing. This resistance is being conducted in close unity with the struggle against any manifestations of imperialist dictation and brigandage. The struggle of the peoples against neocolonialism is a component part of the overall struggle against imperialism and militarism. Its success depends on the degree of activity of all revolutionary forces of contemporaneity and on the strengthening of joint actions of the planet's peace-loving forces.

In evaluating favorably the work by E. Nukhovich, I should also like to call the author's attention to several shortcomings. It is believed that the book would acquire greater acuity if it exposed imperialism's attempts to use the liberated countries in a "crusade" against socialism. The work being reviewed shows rather sketchily the reactionary activity of the international monopolies in the military-economic preparations of imperialism.

On the whole, the book "The Arms Race and the Liberated Nations contains interesting material which can be used widely by ideological personnel of the Armed Forces in exposing the militaristic, aggressive course of imperialism and in indoctrinating the personnel in a spirit of lofty political vigilance.

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ARMED FORCES

ROLE OF PHYSICAL CONDITIONING IN TRAINING FOR MOUNTAIN COMBAT

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Major V. Ul'yanov, member of unit sports committee, Red Banner Trans-Caucasian Military District: "Taking Account of Mountain Terrain, Military Specialty and Physical Training"]

[Text] The company under the command of Captain R. Khabirov had been assigned a number of difficult missions in the course of a tactical training exercise. The assault troops initially found themselves involved in an operation on highly broken terrain. As they pressed their attack they advanced into the foothills. The "enemy" was doing everything he could to beat back his attackers, to gain time and to hold out until reinforcements arrived. Despite his great efforts, however, he was unable to seize and hold any advantageous position. The advancing subunits were attacking him from three sides at the same time, from the front, on the flank and in the rear.

At the postexercise critique the troops of Captain R. Khabirov's company received a high rating for their performance. The NCO's and soldiers of this subunit had performed skillfully in the mountains at altitudes far above sea level and had arrived at their start line at precisely the time scheduled. All this says a lot. And it says a lot, first of all, about what good mountain training they had had and what tough physical condition they were in.

This, of course, is not an isolated case. If you take the time to analyze the factors in each individual success, one factor will be found to be common to all cases: our unit attaches the greatest possible importance to mountain training and to insuring that our troops develop an ability to perform skillfully and efficiently in the mountains. All our sports holidays, training exercises and mass-scale sports periods will always be oriented predominantly toward the mountains and mountain-related activities. This practice bears its fruit, of course. Every second man has been awarded the "USSR Alpinist" badge. In addition to being experienced mountain climbers, these men can now assume the responsibilities of group leaders in mountain operations.

It is natural, of course, that our officers set the pace in all these activities. Many of them participate in mass climbs, develop solid mountain skills and improve the state of their mountain training. Members of our unit sports committee are good examples. Officers like Major V. Portnyagin and Senior Lieutenant V. Turbayevskiy, for example, men who have had excellent mountain training. Together

with other enthusiasts, they have taken the initiative in organizing many interesting climbs, which, of course, are preceded by painstaking preparations.

We begin, first of all, by preparing our troops to overcome the difficulties associated with the development of psychological stability. For the fact is that many of them have formerly lived in lower-lying areas and so naturally suffer from a fear of heights. So together with training in the use of special mountain-climbing equipment, we take these new troops through exercises over a footpath with obstacles along it. In the course of these exercises they must, for example, make their way over high obstacles erected along the path, move along lines strung 10-15 meters high and negotiate canyons and logs and bridges swinging above the surface of a water obstacle.

Then three times a week the troops go through march-dash exercises with full pack to build endurance. We also make use of the sports facilities in the military training area, which have been modernized taking into account the particular features of our mountain terrain. At the suggestion of master of sport Captain V. Sheychenko, for example, the facility has installed, in addition to the standard conventional trapeze, apparatus trainees can use to learn how to scale and descend a vertical wall. Other additions to the existing sports facility have made it possible to train in such important activities as negotiating obstacles and then immediately engaging in hand-to-hand combat. Our experience has demonstrated these exercises to be highly effective.

Special variations on standard morning physical training exercises have been designed for young troops who still fall short in the endurance category. After a limbering-up exercise, for example, a morning run will take them only across broken terrain and include a stretch in which they are required to negotiate a mountain stream. Being required to advance over rocks sticking up out of the water improves coordination and helps develop balance. Then twice a week the physical training exercises include movement along a narrow or swinging support.

The initiative taken by activists on the sports committee will in large part determine the level of training our assault troops receive. I will cite the following example. A number of our subunits had on one occasion been unable to satisfy the grenade-throwing norm. The troops were getting the distance, but they weren't always throwing with sufficient accuracy. When you're in the mountains and the enemy is above you, it's very difficult to get the grenade on target. Senior Lieutenant V. Serdyuk found a solution to the problem. He developed a special training device, the introduction of which into our troop training program has made it possible to plug this gap in our coverage. As has been demonstrated in the course of exercises, all our officers and men can now use their grenades with some skill without being afraid of being hit by fragments from the explosion. The practical skills they develop during their training help eliminate the mistakes, which pose real dangers for inadequately trained personnel.

Members of the unit sports committee do not, of course, overlook such aspects of their work as propagandizing our front-line traditions. We have been able, for example, to find a number of copies of the book "El'brus v ogne" [Firefight on El'brus]. This book not only packs a substantial emotional punch, you can learn a lot from it as well. All officers in the unit have read this stirring story about mountain combat operations, and they now begin each training session with a brief introduction touching upon traditions born in the fire of battle.

This, of course, does not exhaust the propaganda activities of the sports committee. They are engaged in a fairly wide range of activities. Local radio programs, for example, always devote time to analyses of the experience subunits returning to the post from training at the mountain or high-altitude training center. Commanders, our best specialists and top sportsmen will speak to gatherings of our troops. These programs, incidentally, are very popular with our personnel and provide good complements to the wall press, which also devotes a great deal of attention to mountain training.

Troops preparing for an ascent or participation in mountain triathlon competition will, of course, go through a program of moral-psychological conditioning and preparation simultaneously with their program of general physical training. And this is as it should be. For it is precisely the level at which they train in the sports facility, the obstacle course and the mountain training area that will in large part determine their success in the mountains.

Unit and subunit sports activities will be effective only if all troops participate in them. And this applies above all to our officers and warrant officers. Full participation in mountain sports activities lays the foundation for subsequent success in high-altitude mountain operations. The subunit, group or party will not be able to accomplish its combat mission to the full in all its aspects if even a single member begins to fall off the pace or if his powers of endurance betray him. That's why all of our people go any time the unit makes an ascent for mountain training. This in turn teaches collectivism and instills pride in belonging to this particular branch of the service. Sports, particularly mountain sports, helps develop and reinforce skills which will without doubt be needed in the future. For it is no secret that our mountain troops, troops which are highly conditioned, are capable of negotiating the most difficult, unanticipated obstacles and operating in the mountains day and night any time of year. Results achieved during the first weeks of the winter combat training period and performance in previous exercises are eloquent demonstrations of just how true this is.

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ARMED FORCES

NEED TO UPGRADE NIGHT TRAINING EMPHASIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Night Troop Training"]

[Text] It was 40 years ago on one of the sectors of the Volkhov front. On a snowy, windy January night in 1944, the 229th Infantry Regiment together with a ski battalion of the 225th Infantry Division broke through the Hitlerite defenses in a surprise attack without artillery preparation and tank support and seized a bridgehead on the northern shore of Lake Il'men'. This night attack helped insure the success of a Soviet offensive.

The history of the Great Patriotic War knows many such instances. They demonstrate convincingly that the ability of an organization to operate at night has always been one of the critical factors in the achievement of victory in battle.

We organize our troop combat training with this in mind. The commander and staff of X Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment (Transbaykal Military District), for example, give continuous attention to nighttime troop combat training operations. As a rule, the tactical training exercises here will involve night subunit operations and extensive night fire training for both infantry and tanks. It is characteristic that in these exercises, personnel train both with and without the use of night vision devices. So it is entirely to be expected that many of the regiment's subunits are able to accomplish their combat training missions no less successfully at night than they are in the daytime.

Training experience indicates, however, that there are still some individuals who fail to learn to make fully effective use of weapons and equipment at night, to employ illumination, light-signalling and night vision devices effectively and to move with reference to azimuth. This is to be observed where night training is not as rigorous as it should be, when training is conducted in overly simplified situations, for example, situations which take into account neither the nature of modern-day warfare nor the requirements of the latest methodology. Exercises conducted recently by Major P. Fedotovskiy's battalion, for example, revealed that some subunit commanders are not giving the necessary attention in their night training exercises to drilling in measures designed to provide protection for both personnel and equipment against the effects of weapons of mass destruction. Some of the battalion's NCO's and soldiers have yet to be trained to fire accurately at night both with the use of night sights and without them.

We also need to see more improvement in the training given our troops in night marches and nighttime transport operations. We are occasionally seeing this activity approached in an overly simplified manner, one which fails to take account of the fact that personnel must always be prepared to march and move weapons, personnel and equipment both under normal conditions and under conditions involving enemy use of weapons of mass destruction. Some subunits are not giving adequate attention to training which involves nighttime negotiation of contaminated areas, defense against enemy air attack and destruction of the enemy with ambushes, air assault operations and reconnaissance and sabotage groups. Some specialists have not yet developed the skills necessary to operate their vehicles using night vision and blackout devices and to perform repairs and maintenance at night.

At the same time, available battlefield experience demonstrates that we must be able to do more than regroup and replace subunits and execute marches and transport operations at night. The nature of modern-day warfare is such that troops will have to be able both day and night to break through enemy defenses, repel his attacks, conduct meeting engagements.... In a word, they must be able to conduct all types of combat operations at night. And this will be possible only if commanders and their staffs continuously concern themselves with insuring that their personnel learn to conduct aggressive, resolute night operations under truly adverse conditions and if tactical fire training is inseparably linked with the moral, political and psychological conditioning of their personnel, with the development in them of great spiritual and physical strength and steadfastness.

Efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of our night troop training must be linked in the most organic way with improvement in the professional skills of our military cadres. With this objective in view we must make more aggressive use of various forms of command training and practical, front-line experience. Each and every commander must develop a firm grasp of the provisions of regulations contained in the field manual and other instructions and documents governing procedures to be employed in organizing and conducting night operations and be able to implement these regulations imaginatively in practice. It is very important that commanders and their staffs do everything possible to encourage and adopt innovative methods and procedures for training their personnel in night operations in a variety of combat situations. Worthy of particular attention is practical experience in the organization and conduct of night combat operations in the mountains, in the desert, in the taiga and under other adverse geographic and climatic conditions.

Success in accomplishing the tasks involved in conducting a program of night combat training will depend in large part upon whether a formation or unit has available to it the proper training materials, facilities and equipment. These components of the training base must be such as to permit training involving the establishment of combat operational cooperation in a combined-arms environment. All target ranges, fire-training grounds, firing ranges and moving-target facilities must be equipped and organized so as to permit them to be quickly and efficiently prepared for use in night training exercises and their automatic systems to create complex tactical situations for the trainees involved, who can then work on all aspects of the organization and conduct of night combat operations. As practical experience has shown, training facilities and equipment will always be used more effectively the better organized the competition associated with the missions assigned and the efforts to meet night training norms. This must be driven home to our commanders in more specific, concrete ways, and they must be more effectively armed with the

innovative experience and thinking available in connection with these activities; everything possible must be done to promote and support competition under the slogan "Nighttime performance to meet daytime standards."

Combat readiness, readiness to do battle with a strong, well-equipped enemy both day and night is one of the important criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of our party political work. Taking account of the difficult international situation, commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations are called upon to give particular attention to efforts to develop in our fighting men a spirit of great vigilance, bravery and continuous readiness for combat under difficult conditions. Accomplishment of this task presumes skillful political support for each and every nighttime training session and exercise, effective efforts to eliminate carelessness, oversimplification and laxness and exemplary personal performance on the part of all communists and Komsomol members.

Continued improvement of our night troop training constitutes one of the most critical conditions for increasing the combat readiness and fighting efficiency of the USSR Armed Forces.

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ARMED FORCES

CHIEF OF SAMARKAND HIGHER MOTOR VEHICLE COMMAND SCHOOL PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Colonel V. Moroz: "School Commandant, Senior Figures of the Soviet Armed Forces"]

[Text] Lieutenant General A. Red'ko, commandant of the Samarkand Higher Motor Vehicle Command School imeni Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR, was not speaking on this evening program: on this particular night he played the role of the attentive, interested listener. The theme of the program was "The Careers of the Fathers, the Paths of the Sons," and the young people were the focus of attention on the stage. Everybody present in the hall that night knew, however, that the evening's theme applied to the career of Anatoliy Petrovich Red'ko as well in the most direct sense.

Thanks to his father, one of the first sovkhos tractor operators and vehicle drivers, Red'ko fell in love with the motor vehicle as a child. His love for the army and deep respect for the military profession also came from his father, a member of the legendary First Cavalry. In 1943, Red'ko followed the others in his family to the front. Not yet 17 at this point, he placed in charge of a mortar, then of a searchlight crew. On one occasion he took the place of a ZIS-5 driver who had been killed and proceeded to stay behind the wheel for the rest of the war. He received wounds at Mozyr' and Warsaw.

It was not without the influence of his father, who also returned to his native village of Dinskaya with wounds, that he finally determined upon the postwar career he would follow: he enrolled in a military vehicle school.

Years later Anatoliy Petrovich would see his own sons choose the difficult career of an officer when it came time for them to decide on what they were going to do with themselves in life. All three of them are communists, just like their father and grandfather. All three have become officers.

"It goes without saying, of course," Lieutenant General Red'ko says, "that it makes a father feel good to see his sons choose to follow in his footsteps when they decide on their careers. That isn't the most important thing, though. It is much more important that our young people develop the older generation's sense of responsibility for everything the country lives for."

If we go back, now, to the program the school's Komsomol committee was putting on that night, Anatoliy Petrovich's career is very illustrative and instructive for the young people from this point of view. No matter where communist Red'ko has been assigned—he commanded a student company for seven years, then a motor transport battalion, followed by tours as commandant of a motor transport school and head of department in the higher motor-vehicle engineering school—he has always organized his operations in strict accordance with regulation procedures, created a tightly knit military collective and then led this organization to the top with high ratings.

The Samarkand Higher Motor Vehicle Military Command School, too, has established a high reputation within the Armed Forces. When A. Red'ko took over the new military school eight years ago the only buildings in existence were a single training facility and some old cavalry regiment barracks. The training materials, facilities and equipment the school now has could be the envy of the best of our VUZ's. A lot of this, the unique laboratory complex here for example, is the work of the instructors and students themselves. The well-equipped motor pool is one of the most important facilities employed in the training of our future motor-transport subunit commanders. The vehicle testing ground which has been built on some unused land near the facility has become a real attraction.

General Red'ko has also demonstrated his organizational competence in the process of introducing new and innovative methods and equipment into the school's training programs. Extensive utilization of modern simulators, the use of motion pictures, television and monitoring equipment in the teaching process, a concern to insure that lectures are problem-oriented, maximum activity and involvement on the part of the students themselves.... All these methods have been adopted with the personal approval of the school commandant, who knows how to evaluate and support an intelligent initiative, to isolate the useful kernel in suggestion put forward by his instructors and to inspire people to creative, innovative activity.

Comments from the organizations to which the school's graduates are ultimately assigned concerning their performance indicate that these are strongly motivated, knowledgeable officers who are deeply devoted to their military specialty. Their old school commandant has left a positive imprint upon each one of them. And he has been able to do this by his own example of a proper party-minded attitude toward a mission, by the authoritative words of a front-line veteran and a fatherly participation in the personal development of each of his students.

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ARMED FORCES

TAX BENEFITS FOR SERVICEMEN OUTLINED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 24 Nov 83) p 21

[Article: "School of Legal Knowledge: Tax Benefits"]

[Text] In their letters to the editors warrant officers [praporshchiki] V. Gavrilov, D. Cherkasov and S. Gasparyan ask us to tell about tax benefits for servicemen and members of their families. We asked Col Intend Serv A. Vasil'yev (of the Ministry of Defense Central Finance Directorate) to answer their questions.

[Question] What benefits are granted to servicemen on active military duty?

[Answer] Privates, seamen, sergeants, petty officers and warrant officers [praporshchiki and michmany] on active military duty and members of their families are relieved of paying the tax on owners of buildings and the land tax.

The households of kolkhoz members where a family member who is part of the household is on active military duty are relieved of paying the agricultural tax if no other able-bodied persons remain in the family except for the serviceman's wife or mother who have children up to eight years of age.

At the present time an income tax and a tax on bachelors, single citizens and citizens with small families on earnings up to 70 rubles per month are not collected, and on earnings up to 90 rubles a month these taxes are fixed at the lower rates.

First-term servicemen are relieved fully of paying income tax and a tax on bachelors, single citizens and citizens with small families on all kinds of monetary allowances, bonuses and earnings they received in the military unit at their place of duty, and from enterprises and organizations during the time they were employed for various jobs under established procedures. These taxes also are not collected from earnings received by military construction personnel in military construction detachments.

A 50 percent discount is established for Great Patriotic War participants and participants of other combat operations in defense of the USSR from among

servicemen of the Army in the field and partisans. This benefit is granted initially on the basis of a certificate issued under the established procedure. To obtain such a benefit one must present a war participant certificate to the finance entity at the place of duty.

Each year commanders and chiefs announce lists of war participants as of 15 December in orders, which are a basis for granting such a benefit.

[Question] Tell us please about tax benefits for members of servicemen's families.

[Answer] The wives of first-term servicemen and military construction workers are relieved of paying the tax on bachelors, single citizens and citizens with small families.

First-term servicemen and warrant officers on active military duty and their wives are relieved of the imposition of this tax. The benefit for the tax on bachelors, single citizens and citizens with small families granted to servicemen and their wives is retained all the while servicemen are in therapeutic establishments and on leave for reason of illness, and in case of release from active military duty because of illness, the benefit is retained for no more than one year from the date of release.

For servicemen with four or more dependents the amount of income tax on pay and allowances received at the primary duty station is reduced 30 percent. Included as dependents are all persons, including those not related to the serviceman, who are living at the serviceman's expense and who do not have independent sources of income.

When the tax benefit is granted children are included among dependents regardless of the pension, grant or alimony received for them. A child for whose care alimony is being paid is included among dependents not only of the person paying alimony, but also the recipient of alimony. Children for whom servicemen are paying money in amounts prescribed for exaction of alimony at their own desire without a court judgement also are regarded as dependents.

Also considered as dependents in deciding the question of granting a 30-percent discount on income tax are women on leave without pay in connection with childbirth until the child reaches the age of one year, and women receiving a state grant for children if they do not have other independent sources. It should be borne in mind that a partially paid leave to care for a child until he reaches the age of one year has been introduced in some parts of the country for working mothers with an overall seniority of less than one year as well as for women studying apart from production. If a serviceman's wife is on such leave, she is not included among dependents for granting the income tax benefit. At the same time the partially paid leave was introduced, the right was granted to working (or studying) women to receive supplementary leave without pay to care for a child until he reaches the age of 1½. In this case a 30-percent discount for income tax is granted to the head of the family for the entire time his wife is on supplementary leave without pay.

Persons with independent earnings in production or in kolkhozes or who receive stipends and pensions are not included among dependents. Children studying in Nakhimov, Suvorov and vocational-technical schools, the wards of children's homes and infant homes, pupils of special schools and children in boarding schools whose care is not being paid for by parents also are not dependents.

[Question] On the basis of what documents are income tax benefits granted?

[Answer] The basis for granting an income tax benefit is a certificate on the number of dependents, which is issued at their place of residence by the housing management or executive committee of the rural (or settlement) soviet of people's deputies, and in groups of forces it is the certificate issued by the military unit.

According to existing legislation servicemen have the responsibility for annual submission of documents about the presence of dependents before they are paid for January.

Documents are submitted within a 20-day period on being appointed to military duty or if there is an increase in the number of dependents after the payment of pay and allowances. In this case a recomputation is made on income tax for the past month.

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ARMED FORCES

CORRESPONDENT DECRIES POPULARITY OF DISCOS AT OFFICERS' CLUBS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 24 Nov 83)
pp 10-11

[Article by ZNAMENOSETS correspondent M. Fedotovskikh: "Alien Discorhythms"]

[Text] Dear Editors! We go to the officers' club to have an interesting rest, listen to music and dance, but discotheques and not dances now have become fashionable. They are loud, crowded and stuffy. You can't become acquainted with a girl, you can't talk and you can't dance in a human manner. . . . The recordings basically are in a foreign language...

Perhaps there is something we don't understand if we don't see the benefit of discotheques, which have replaced dance nights? Explain, please.

Warrant officers
[praporshchiki] S. Chistyakov
and S. Ikonnikov
Order of Lenin Moscow Military
District

The questions are not random and are far from simple, because the discotheque which appeared in the West has crossed the borders of many countries, has become widespread here as well and actually has crowded out dance nights, and because it constantly changes in form, in content and in methods of producing the music. There are discollectures, disconights and discoclubs, which generally are no longer a discotheque. The very concept of "discotheque," in fact, signifies a record storage.

And now it is not the listening to music which has become popular in some officers' clubs (and in many civilian club establishments), but the performance of "dances," conditionally speaking, to various discorhythms. Why conditionally speaking? Because finished choreographic compositions are not performed at such discotheques. You encounter movements from the boogie-woogie, twist, shake and others... Each does what he can.

It is generally known that discorhythms, the basis of the present discotheques, originated in the West in the 1950's and 1960's from the Afro-American "gospel," "soul" and other styles. The rock music then appearing was a unique protest by the youth of capitalist countries against the foundations and morality of the "society of prosperity." This was countermusic and counterculture. The melody and harmony of sounds was disrupted. That is to say, the basis of the discotheque and its historical past contains an anti-esthetic challenge: jerkiness instead of grace, unceremoniousness in place of etiquette, and rhythm, rhythm, rhythm in place of melody.

But the western profit dealers and dealers in politics perceived a social phenomenon in such counterdances which was capable of "absorbing" millions of young people, taking away their leisure time and diverting them from politics and pressing problems. What functioned was the idea that one has to learn dancing, but at a discotheque just get in the crowd and move without any training. Beautiful clothing is necessary for beautiful dance movements, but sneakers and a sports shirt will pass for a discotheque--it's all the same what you wear while stamping about after dropping in in passing. Such is the pseudodemocracy of external appearance and etiquette.

External effects were given to the entertainment: the winking of colored lights, fireworks, smoke, the excessive loudness of music leading to a stupor, and the display of publicity slides and filmstrips. It became unfashionable to invite a partner to such nights. Three to five persons would go as a crowd and that was the entire etiquette.

Disturbed about the content of the new dance fashion, the USSR Ministry of Culture, AUCCTU and Komsomol CC published an exemplary Statute on the amateur discotheque in 1980. It stated clearly: a discotheque must contribute to an improvement in the moral and cultural level and to the instilling of an artistic taste and high dance culture. That is to say, the form of club contact which appeared here had to be filled with a new content worthy of the Soviet citizen.

Before answering the letter's authors we looked over more than ten discotheques in various officers' clubs. In the officers' club where Maj V. Pronin is the chief, the NCO's and warrant officers became so enthused in dancing to discorhythms that after beginning to sweat they would unbutton jackets and remove their ties, thus crudely violating the rules for wearing the military uniform. This is typical for many discotheques.

In the garrison officers' club where Maj V. Sukhomlinov is the chief all those visiting the discotheques, including servicemen, came in civilian clothes. The eye was struck by the untidy clothing: frayed jeans made by western firms, suspenders over shirts, and pullovers and sweaters tied about the hips. The girls did not wear evening dresses, but sports shirts, sneakers, jeans, running clothes and beach sabots. It seemed some only came here to show off clothing with a foreign trademark.

"What can you do? It is such entertainment," said the chief, Maj Sukhomlinov, with enviable calm. "Both in the clothing and in the music... Once we included a waltz recording in the discotheque and only two couples danced... And the money is of importance to us. Today more than 600 persons came, which means more than 600 rubles for the night. Dances don't give us that much..."

Here we see one of the reasons why discotheques have crowded out dances and have sprouted like mushrooms after a rain: high gain with lesser expenses and efforts. Discotheques provide several thousand rubles a month to some officers' clubs, and they are held primarily by three persons: the director, an operator, and an instructor in cultural and art work. One doesn't have to be concerned with an orchestra, the youth don't have to be taught to dance and one need not fuss as on a dance night. The price of a ticket to the discotheque has been made higher, which means greater gain. The cost means nothing to those who attend in the desire to spend time "fashionably." They often simply have no choice of where to go.

Strange as it may seem, the condition of the Statute which states that income from the discotheque must be equal to expenses also worked against the dances, i.e., the gain allows good pay to the director, operator and other officers' club workers, allows compensation for the use of personal radio equipment, recordings, slides, scripts and so on. For this reason, the directors of discotheques are materially interested in bringing in and attracting more young people, and they often do so, but how?

The discotheque in the Kalinin Garrison Officers' Club was recommended as the best. As a matter of fact, of all those checked out, it is the best and most popular among post personnel and among the city youth. For this reason it is not so simple to get a ticket to it: you stand in a line just as if it were a good theater. Order is maintained here at the entrance. People who are a bit tight or carelessly dressed are not admitted, including girls in boots or sneakers and boys in sweaters or sports shirts. The cleanliness and appropriate arrangement of the rooms and the repeated but polite supervision lead to order. There is the muffled light of colored lanterns pulsing to the beat in the main rooms. It appears the dancers here also act more decently than in other officers' clubs and controls aren't necessary. This is what a well-conceived organization of an evening means.

But unfortunately, the foreign word "disco" appeared above the stage and foreign songs and rhythms sounded almost all evening beneath it. Relaxed, hairy Beatles and foreign clothing fashions were displayed on the wall by a projector. It turned out that this entire Soviet officers' club for soldiers and for city youth was advertising models of western culture alien to us!

As it was learned, an appropriate commission had pointed out to the GDO [garrison officers' club] chief that unjustifiably many foreign songs were presented in the evenings. This is also known to discotheque director O. Solov'yev, operator A. Stepenkov and to R. Proshakova, the senior instructor for cultural and art work. They believed, however, that the criticism was immaterial and that it was more important to bring in the visitors by something western and rather sharp, and to bring in more on the tickets.

No, it is not more important. The June 1983 CPSU CC Plenum stated that in matters of bringing up young people "a political and not a commercial approach must be the priority for us." The Army cultural enlightenment workers must not forget this.

I don't wish to say that there is no direction of the discotheques and evening activities in those officers' clubs where I had occasion to visit. It is an essential fact, however, that the disc jockeys in all the discotheques I examined did not have an approved list of musical numbers to be played. And so it turns out that the repertoire depends entirely on the taste of the director or operator. They usually have at their console two tape recorders and dozens of tapes. When the chief comes in they switch on a tune with Russian text such as "Will It Be--Oy-Yea-Yea!" When the chief leaves the button of the other tape recorder is pressed and a western "discoproduction" is heard and a drum rolls. Who controls whom here?

Any soldier knows that the rhythm of a drum can force a step to rap out in formation, but the appropriate rhythm also can make one shake and drive a person into a frenzy. It depends on how much rhythm there is and how it is given. Neuropathologists state that the thunderous stereo sound and light stimulation are harmful to any person and lead to mental disturbances, and for girls even to infertility. Out of a large number of critical statements about discotheques in our press I will quote one: "But the primitive, intrusive monotony, the melodic vulgarity and deliberate anti-aesthetics all are far from neutral. It not only deafens, but also stupefies" ("When the Soul is Deaf," PRAVDA, 7 July 1982).

Those soldiers who understood the hidden substance of such leisure time expressed themselves frankly and sharply. For example, the following is said about one of the discotheques in the Red Banner Baltic Military District.

WO [Praporshchik] A. Shuleshko: "The din is irritating. The light arrangement hits the eye and doesn't correspond to the rhythm. About eight persons behave decently and the others contort themselves primitively. The civilian visitors are in jeans and running clothes. There is no ethics here and no management of the discotheque..."

WO Yu. Smirnov: "Almost all girls and boys attending such entertainment smoke, and some also drink in front of the discotheque. My son states that he won't go to the discotheque as there is much disorder there."

Young people always have had and will have a natural need to dance, to move and to socialize. Let them dance, and not listen to the mumbling of a half-baked disc jockey about where and in what city, let's say, the Faulkner rock group performed or why Michael Jackson is popular, but let them dance. Why give information in the officers' club about how a foreign "celebrity" lives or how many records she or he produced? What is moral and creative in such information?

All those who don't like discotheques say in one voice: but where are we to go? What are we to do? Where are we to socialize and meet girls when there are no dances?

For this reason those who wish to organize youth nights should ponder whether or not a discotheque is necessary. And what kind is necessary: the listening to music and its interpretation with well-organized modern dances (which, strictly speaking, is no longer a discotheque) or one leading to the shaking of the addicts of discorhythms? Or perhaps it is better to have traditional dances, including modern, fast ballroom dances?

Where discotheques operate there must be precise control over what is heard and what dances the soldiers do. Are the people punching the buttons of tape recorders sufficiently mature politically and morally or are they indulging bad, vulgar tastes?

The June 1983 CPSU CC Plenum obligates us to "carry on an unremitting fight against callousness, egotism and narrowmindedness, and against any attempts to drag alien views and customs into our environment." I would like to add: drag them in by the use of discotheques as well.

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ARMED FORCES

EDITORIAL 'ROUND TABLE' EXAMINES QUESTION OF DISCIPLINE

Moscow VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 7 Dec 83)
pp 30-31

[Round-table discussion recorded by A. Chernykh: "Discipline: How Can it be Taught?"]

[Text] The editors conducted our regular "round table" at the Voronezh Naval School of the USSR DOSAAF. The discussion this time was about discipline, about how it can be instilled in the cadets. School directors, instructors and production training masters took part in the discussion. There was an open exchange of opinions, beneficial to the work.

V.Z. [VOYENNNYYE ZNANIYA]: The Soviet fightingman understands why it is necessary to unquestioningly carry out orders. He attempts to do this as rapidly as possible and in the best possible manner. He is prepared to completely fulfill his duty at any moment, with initiative and without waiting for instructions or orders issued in the name of the commander. The defense society's school must develop these qualities in the cadets. How can this best be achieved?

A. Azarov, senior production training master: I know from my own experience that it is not an easy thing to instill discipline in a person, especially in our situation. The youth, recent students, come to us for a relatively brief period of time. We need to produce a disciplined and efficient specialist literally within a few months. And this is where we encounter the greatest difficulty. Try to convince a 17-year-old boy of the need for absolute obedience, for example. You try to convince him that this is necessary for his future service in the navy and for the common cause. For a number of reasons he does not understand you: He is young; his family did not bring him up this way; he is extremely proud; and he wants to appear independent. And so we have to coerce the student, to "break" his character. There is no time for babying him. I feel that in our situation, we need to first force the cadet to follow the schedule set up at the school. I repeat: There is no time for persuasion.

N. Medvedev, instructor: I think that my colleague is going too far by giving preference to the use of force. Some things can be achieved this way, of course, and the trainee can be forced to obey. We should not worry about this kind of discipline, however. Yes, we have no time to spare. We must still try to

convince each cadet of the need for discipline in the short time available, however. Figuratively speaking, we need to develop in him a taste for discipline. Naturally, it is sometimes necessary to "pressure" a student, to be stricter and more demanding of him, to punish him. In my opinion, however, this should be the exception, used when everything else has been tried. Aleksandr Sergeyevich will probably agree with me. After all, he himself spent a great deal of time in the navy and he knows that discipline is firm when it is aware discipline, that is, when it has become a matter of conviction for the individual.

A. Azarov: Yes, of course. I would like to say that force is only necessary under specific circumstances. I might be wrong. I understand my main task as being that of producing a military specialist who performs his duties with awareness. Possibly, I fail sometimes. I lack restraint and patience. I want the group to be disciplined. Otherwise, there can be no normal training.

V. Shmyrev, production training master: You are right in your last statement, Aleksandr Sergeyevich. Discipline has a great effect upon the training process. Take class attendance as an example. The disciplined cadet tries not to miss classes and not to be late for them. This means that he fully absorbs the material and is an excellent student. Conversely, there is a gap in his training when he misses a class or two. It is difficult to study the subject by himself. Our subjects are hard ones and cannot be understood without an instructor. The violator of discipline "coasts" and falls behind the group. Quite frankly though, it is a problem to force the cadet to attend all of the classes. He is not a serviceman, after all, and the regulations do not apply to him. Some of the young men take advantage of this. I am still not a sailor, they say and you can't demand anything of me. This is when some of the masters take out the stick and began punishing the students. This frequently produces a negative reaction. I am therefore a proponent of giving priority to conviction in the indoctrinational work. This is more difficult, of course. It is our responsibility as instructors, however. We do not have the right to look for the easy way.

A. Azarov: I am afraid that you have misunderstood me. I am also in favor of conviction. This simply does not always work out, however. One's patience runs out when working with some of the cadets. You do not always achieve the desired result. It is my opinion that the military commissariats do not handle the selection of students for the school with a complete sense of responsibility. After all, we are training cadres for the Navy. Not everyone is worthy of the honor of serving on a ship. I had one cadet, whose name I shall not mention. He arrived at the school with such a personnel record that I could only be amazed. What was the military commissariat thinking when it sent this young man to us. He had been hauled to the police more than 10 times. He had a weakness for alcohol and encouraged his comrades to drink. He tried to boss the group. We had to let him go. I spent so much time and effort on him, not to mention my nerves, to the detriment of the entire group!

V. Shmyrev: Making up the training groups is indeed an acute problem. I try to familiarize myself with the personal files of the students in the military commissariat ahead of time. I consider the interests of the young men. I find out what their families are like. I jot down the names and patronymics of their parents and the telephone numbers of their instructors at work and

their team leaders. When the cadets arrive, I have a talk with each of them. After a week I hypothetically divide them up into 3 groups: those who want to study, those who are vacillating and those who do not want to study. I structure my subsequent work on the basis of this. I consider those who are vacillating to be extremely promising, since they rapidly become interested in the training and study diligently. With respect to those with no desire to study, their attitude also changes after a certain period of time. There are still those, albeit only isolated individuals, who have to be removed for the sake of the work, however.

V.Z.: And do you make this decision lightly?

S. Goloto, production training master: For us dismissal is an uncommon expedient. We resort to it only in extreme cases. It has already been mentioned that the military commissariats do not always demonstrate proper demandings when they make up groups for the school. They sometimes accept everyone who applies. It is ordinarily not an easy matter to make up the group. It is sometimes necessary to spend 2 weeks or even a month filling out the group, and this is after the training has already begun. This clearly forces the school to work feverishly and has a negative effect also upon the development of discipline in the cadets.

A. Smirnov, school chief: The instructor's personal example plays a large role in the development of discipline. Do all of us set a good example? Unfortunately, the answer is no. It is forbidden to smoke at the training stations, for example, but it is nothing for a cadet to find master Shidlovskiy servicing the equipment with a cigarette in his mouth. How can we achieve discipline, if one master is demanding and another makes allowances. After one instructor has conducted the rollcall, the cadets leave in formation as they are supposed to, while those of another instructor will mill around, pushing and shoving each other and engaging in horseplay. And what about the instructor's appearance? A group of masters was recently photographed. Take a look at this picture. Just look at the discrepancies! Some of them are in uniform and some are in civilian clothes.

S. Koldayev, deputy school chief for training and indoctrinational work: Incidentally, I would like to say a word about the uniform. Naturally, we cannot order all of the masters to wear the uniform. This is voluntary. This matter has a moral aspect, however. As former servicemen, how can we argue about dressing. The problem is that there is nowhere for us to get our uniforms. We acquire them any way we can. I have had to deal with this problem. The military stores will not provide them. We have to wear the uniform of the river transport workers. This is no solution, however. The oblast DOSAAF committee does little to help us acquire the uniform, although this is precisely the body which should deal with the problem.

N. Medvedev: I would like to continue with the discussion of the master's personal example with respect to developing discipline in the cadets. We had a master Yermakov on our staff. He was chummy with the cadets and padded their grades. He would come to work late. He thought that his friendly relationship with the students would help him maintain order in the group. He thought that if the cadets regarded the master as their friend, they would not let him down. The opposite happened, however. Discipline deteriorated in the group, the instructor enjoyed no prestige, and the cadets studied poorly. We had to discharge Yermakov.

A. Labuzo, production training manager: The cadres are now being selected more carefully. You won't last on our staff if you don't work hard. We have a difficult job. We have 6 hours of lessons each day. After that we have additional classes, meetings and methods conferences. We spend a lot of time filling out paperwork, visiting the military commissariat and the enterprises where the cadets worked, and on the work of improving efficiency. In addition, the school is presently undergoing repairs. Everyone is helping: from the chief and the master to the cadet. We cannot calmly pick up our briefcases and leave after the classes are over. There is always something which cannot be put off, when you are truly concerned about your students. Our team, which has around 30 communists, works vigorously. This infects the cadets and makes them want to study with excellence and exercise good discipline. We have already mentioned the great importance of the instructor's personal example, of his attitude toward the work and the fulfillment of his service duty.

A. Smirnov: We do in fact have a good and efficient collective. It is therefore all the more disappointing when there are disturbances. The other day, 2 weeks before graduation, one of the masters submitted his resignation. He had accepted another job. It was possibly better for him--closer to home and with better pay. He should have had a sense of duty, however. I asked him to stay with the group until the end. He would not consider it. He said no, and that was the end of it. It turns out that he cared nothing about his students, about those whom he was teaching and who believed in him.

V.Z.: I feel that we have had an interesting exchange of opinions. Although the opinions have sometimes diverged, they indicate that the "round table" participants are greatly interested in improving the indoctrinational work in the school and enhancing discipline in the cadets. The participants did not discuss many questions pertaining to the development of discipline in the cadets, of course. We did not expect our discussion to cover everything, however. We hope that it will be continued by the magazine's readers.

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ARMED FORCES

PENSION BENEFITS FOR CONTINUOUS SERVICE EXPLAINED

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 20 Dec 83) pp 89-90

[Article by Col Justice V. Gadzhilov, deputy chief of department, Directorate of Labor and Wages of Workers and Employees of the Soviet Ministry of Defense: "Increase in the Old-Age Pension"]

[Text] Employees of the Soviet Army N. Trundayev and T. Zhokina request us to tell on the pages of the journal about the conditions for adding a 20-percent increase to the pension for continuous service at one enterprise.

A consultation on this question is published below.

An increase of 20 percent to the old-age pension is added for workers and employees who have at least 25 years, and for women who have children--at least 20 years of continuous work at one enterprise, or in an institution or organization, if they simultaneously have the right to an increase to the pension for total length of work.

The increased addition is granted with the presence of three conditions simultaneously:

--continuous period of service in one military unit, institution, educational institution, enterprise, or organization (subsequently called a military unit for brevity) of at least 25 years, and for women with children--at least 20 years.

An increase in the old-age pension of 20 percent is added for women who have children, including adopted children, and a continuous period of work in one military unit for at least 20 years regardless of the number of children, their age, and duration of education as well as whether they are now alive;

--the total period of work, which should exceed the required period for the granting of a pension by at least 10 years. For men it should be at least 35 years, and for women--30 years. If the workers and employees have the right to an old-age pension under privileged conditions for work under harmful conditions, in hot shops, and underground (List No 1, approved by the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers dated 22 August 1956), the total period for adding the increase should be 30 years for men and 25 years for women;

--work on 1 January 1983 or later as a worker or employee.

The absence of one of the three listed conditions does not give the right to the 20-percent increase.

The work book is the basic document which confirms the continuous work period in one military unit and gives the workers and employees the right to an increase in the old-age pension. In those cases where entries in the work book do not contain the necessary information for calculating this period, additional documents issued by the military unit or other competent organ should be presented. The work period established in accordance with testimony is not considered.

The continuous period of work which provides the right to an increase is determined from 1 August 1983 in accordance with the Rules for Calculating the Continuous Period of Labor of Workers and Employees when Granting Allowances in Accordance with State Social Security approved by the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers of 13 April 1973.

Upon one's voluntary release, the portion of the indicated rules for retaining the continuous period of work is employed only in the case of release of pregnant women and mothers having children up to eight years of age, release in connection with the transfer of the husband or wife to work in another locality, retirement on an old-age pension or for disability, and release in connection with the move to work in another locality as part of an organized recruitment of workers, agricultural resettlement, or a public appeal.

From 1 August 1983, the continuous period of work which provides the right for the increase is preserved for women regardless of the duration of the break in work when arriving for work after having been released voluntarily in the case of the transfer of a serviceman-husband for service in another locality. If a serviceman's wife is released from work voluntarily in connection with a move to her husband's place of residence, this period is not preserved.

Also counted in the continuous period of work which provides the right for the 20-percent increase in addition to work as a worker or employee is military service if the break between the date of release from service and the date of arrival for work or study in a higher or secondary special educational institution (including at a preparatory section), for graduate work, for clinical internship, for courses, at an academy or school to raise qualifications, for requalification, and to train personnel does not exceed three months.

The period of military service is included in the continuous period of work regardless of whether the serviceman worked or did not work as a worker or employee prior to call-up for service and of when, for what reason, and at what age he was released from service. Whether the former serviceman returned to his former place of work or joined another military unit also has no significance. The time of service is established from the certificate of service, certificates of the military commissariat, archives, and so forth. The fact of the former serviceman's arrival for study after service and determination of the corresponding period to be counted in the continuous period of work are established from the document of the educational institution.

Even though not counted in the continuous period of work which provides the right to an increase, but with the observance of certain conditions individual periods do not interrupt it. They include, for example, the stay time abroad by members of families of workers, employees, and servicemen who have been sent for work in Soviet institutions, organizations, and enterprises abroad or to serve if the break between the day of return to the USSR and the day for arrival for work did not exceed two months.

The continuous period of work is calculated from the calendar, that is, a year of continuous period is taken as a year of actual work regardless of in which regions and branches of the national economy the labor activity took place.

The following have no significance for applying the increase: whether or not the worker is employed full time or part time, whether under conditions of working at home, the size of his wages, and receipt of a pension during the period of work.

Pensioners who were granted an old-age pension prior to 1 January 1983 and left work receive the right to an increase if, on 1 January 1983 or later, they worked permanently for at least four months. This condition is also applied to workers who were granted an old-age pension in 1983 but left work prior to 1 January 1983. Here the pensioner does not have to return to the same military unit where he worked his continuous period.

Temporary and permanent work for less than four months on 1 January 1983 or later is not considered when determining the right to an increase. Often workers and employees who have been enrolled for temporary work continue to work at this job upon expiration of the period of temporary work. The indicated workers are considered permanent from the day of the initial conclusion of the labor agreement.

The increase for the continuous period of work in one military unit is added to the total of the pension calculated without consideration of other increases, that is, the 20-percent increase is determined on the basis of the basic amount of the pension.

A substantial feature of this increase is the fact that half of it, that is, 10 percent of the pension, is applied in addition to the established maximum amount of the pension.

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ARMED FORCES

HARMFUL INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 20 Dec 83) pp 57-61

[Article by Capt V. Gavrilov: "The Torn Web"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] Junior Sergeant I. Khomich sent a letter to the editors. "Who of us does not trust our parents completely in childhood and does not take on trust everything that they say?" the serviceman wrote. "But you see, it was precisely my parents who began to lead me to a house of prayer from my early years. Just as at one time my grandmother and grandfather led them. I now recall this with regret. And only six years ago everything seemed very earnest and the only correct thing...."

In his letter, Junior Sergeant Khomich relates frankly and in detail how the web of false religious beliefs gradually entangled him and how cleverly and skillfully the members of the Baptist sect operated in poisoning the soul which had not yet become strong with the poison of religiousness. "We speak and write much about the Baptists," the serviceman continues his narrative, "but we really do not consider the most incredible rumors. I will not undertake to judge all these sects. But I will say frankly that in our village of Ostrozhets, Rovno Oblast, they did not prove to be bad in any way, and it was as if no bad things followed them. But nevertheless...."

At Sunday meetings and at home Igor' Khomich heard the most virtuous appeals. One should live modestly, said the preacher, work honestly, not offend those who are close, not drink, and so forth. Only then, he said, will a person live joyously in the next world. At first, the youth liked the Christian precepts of good and modesty. And he also began to believe sincerely in life after death. Of course. It is well known how the environment influences a person. Daily prayers, Sunday sermons, the behavior and discourses of his parents--it was difficult to discern the true essence of the Baptist dogmas behind all this. But the years passed. Igor' moved from class to class, came in contact with those of his same age, often spoke with adults, and with time doubts began to appear more and more often in his soul. And having doubted for the first time, the youth began to look around more attentively, to compare, and to put things in contrast.

Right after the preachers, his parents said that a person lives so as to merit happiness in the other world with pious behavior and selfless faith. But in

school they taught differently: the meaning of human life in good deeds for the good of the motherland and of all honest people. The preacher said: work well. But what was behind these words? It turns out that "well" in his understanding means no less, but in no case no more than prescribed. And the main thing--do only your own business. Don't dare to help atheists. Igor' also understood the meaning the Baptists put in the word "modesty." To be modest, in their opinion, means not to be distinguished not only in work, but also in public life and to reject everything which makes a person's life interesting and complete. And for the sake of what? For the sake of doubtful prospects to live beautifully in a "better world."

Igor' Khomich came to the army with this burden of doubts, with a belief in God which had been shaken but had not completely disappeared. Here the young soldier was met by reliable comrades and intelligent, sensitive teachers. Learning that the soldier was a member of a Baptist sect the deputy company commander for political affairs, Lieutenant G. Semenov, decided to talk with the soldier face-to-face. The political officer's concern was completely understandable: Baptists sometimes even refuse to take the oath, referring to religious prohibition.

This talk was long and difficult. The political officer questioned his subordinate tactfully and unintrusively about his past life and about his parents, and he told him about the collective's traditions, and of the comrades with whom the young soldier was to work henceforth shoulder to shoulder. The officer's friendship and obvious interest in his fate stimulated Igor's to be frank. He shared his thoughts and doubts with the lieutenant and, in conclusion, said that he would take the oath and would strive to serve conscientiously.

The soldier kept his word. He served diligently and participated in the sub-unit's public life. Sometimes his former thoughts of religion visited him. But alongside were loyal friends and experienced mentors--communists and Komsomols. And really life itself--full-blooded, with genuine difficulties and joys--seized the youth more and more. They seldom spoke of his faith with him and did not read manuals, but neither did they leave him alone with his thoughts for long as they tried to attract him to all the affairs of the collective.

It was precisely in the army that Khomich took an important step which was difficult for him--he joined the Komsomol. In this way he finally broke with the past. "...I feel sorry for those," Junior Sergeant Khomich ended his letter, "who are still prisoners of religion. For life is passing them by--unique and inimitable. I have three brothers and three sisters. The oldest of them goes to the fifth grade. But all of them, it is completely clear, believe in God. I was recently on a short leave and travelled home. And my parents and my brothers and sisters looked reproachfully at my Komsomol badge. Well, you can no longer change the minds of my father and mother. But I will struggle for my younger ones as they grow up a little."

The fate of Junior Sergeant Igor' Khomich did not begin easily and the path to enlightenment was difficult. And it is gratifying that it was namely the army which helped the youth to finally break with religion and make the correct choice.

It happens comparatively rarely, but even now there are instances where young people are called up to the army who have been poisoned with the narcotic of religion and are prisoners of false religious beliefs. At first glance, the views of the believers differ little from those thoughts and aspirations with which all Soviet people are living. For example, they are also for peace and against the threat of a new war. War is odious to all citizens of the USSR, to atheists as well as to believers. However, religious ideology interprets the reasons for the outbreak of wars from false positions, instills the thought of their fatal inevitability, urges non-resistance to evil, and calls for passivity without a murmur and for meek pacifism. And by this it stifles an active and effective basis in people and blunts their vigilance in face of the aggressive preparations of the true enemies of peace and socialism--the imperialists. Thus, religion objectively hinders the molding, in the believers, of the consciousness of Soviet military duty and hampers its accomplishment, and it pushes individual youths who are guided by the Christian commandments: "Love thine enemies," Thou shalt not kill, "Thou shalt not swear," and so forth toward a crime against the motherland--toward refusal to serve in the Soviet Army and take the oath.

It was stressed at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee: "NOR SHOULD THERE BE ANY SLACKENING OF WORK WITH SUCH A SPECIFIC GROUP OF THE POPULATION AS THE BELIEVERS, EITHER. A portion of the people and, let us say directly, not such a small portion still remains under the influence of religion. Numerous imperialist ideological centers are striving not only to support, but also to spread religiousness and to give it an anti-Soviet, nationalistic direction." Consequently, the struggle with religious vestiges in the consciousness of individual soldiers and sergeants and instilling in them a conscientious attitude toward military duty is one of the important tasks of commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations.

...One day Privates I. Shayanov and F. Yuldashmatov turned to the propagandist of the N-th unit, Major Yepkin.

"Comrade Major," said Shayanov, knocking at his comrade, "Private Yuldashmatov wants to speak with you."

"Did something happen? Is my help needed?" the officer answered kindly, inviting the soldiers to sit.

"Yuldashmatov understands Russian poorly and asked me to transmit his request. You see, he is a believer. For several days already, he says, he has not been able to be in contact with Allah. This greatly depresses Yuldashmatov. He says it is a great sin...."

"What is needed for this?" asked the political officer, concealing surprise.

"A place. He has no place to seclude himself. In the barracks, you yourself understand, there are people all around...."

How should have Major Yepkin proceeded? Refuse the soldier's request and immediately begin to convince him that there is no Allah? And what real value could this bring? Thinking for a while, he smiled and waved his hand:

"Good. We will offer him such an opportunity."

The major recalled his own youth. He grew up on one of the southern border outposts where his father served. Together with such dark-complexioned boys as Yuldashmatov he played in the dusty streets of the village and went to school. He joined the Komsomol with them and worked in a Komsomol youth brigade. And the officer's soul became distressed from the consciousness that the young fellow who would indeed rejoice in living a common life with them all intends to bow down before an unknown Allah.

Major Yepkin consulted for a long time with the commander of the subunit where Yuldashmatov served and with the Komsomol activists as to how better to influence the believer and what first steps should be undertaken. He soon came to this company to talk with the young soldiers about their military duty to the motherland. In the course of the talk, the officer imperceptibly looked toward Private Yuldashmatov and at times asked him simple questions. But he did not inquire about his faith and the soldier who at first was on the alert gradually thawed out and began to look upon the officer trustfully and to answer questions in greater detail. Fellow-countrymen translated his answers.

And then Major Yepkin also decided that he should begin first of all with the study of the Russian language. On his recommendation, members of the subunit's Komsomol bureau assigned Private Shayanov to the newcomer for this purpose. And really, the propagandist himself quite frequently visited those who were engaged and explained to Yuldashmatov the most frequently used phrases and simple word combinations and, as the training progressed, he tried more and more often to draw him into talking in Russian.

But talks alone were clearly insufficient. The entire collective was to be drawn into the indoctrination of Yuldashmatov and the youth was to be interested and attracted by common deeds.

Soon the editor of the company wall newspaper, Private I. Ivanov, approached Yuldashmatov.

"Listen, Fakhriddin," he addressed the young soldier. "I have a request for you. Please write a note for our newspaper. Share your first impressions about army service."

"You don't say so," Yuldashmatov began to wave his hands in a frightened manner, "I can't, I have nothing to say."

"But don't be scared," the editor calmed him, "it's not difficult at all. Write in your native language. And Shayanov will help you to translate."

Thus Private Yuldashmatov accomplished his first social assignment. Later it was learned that he plays a fair game of chess and checkers. On the recommendation of the Komsomol activists the soldier took part in organizing checkers and chess tournaments in the subunit. And since then he has become an active participant in competitions of this type.

After a while, the subunit went out to the training center for firing. Yuldashmatov went up to the firing line without shyness and calmly and prepared the assault rifle for opening fire. But when the targets appeared he suddenly got excited, hurried, and pulled the trigger too abruptly. The bursts sounded one after the other but, as was learned, the bullets missed the target. Fakhriddin returned to the start line in a depressed state. He was ashamed of his blunder. Shayanov approached, smiled sympathetically, and noted with light irony:

"You spoke with Allah yesterday, Fakhriddin. Why didn't he help you?"

"I don't know what to say," Yuldashmatov answered in confusion. "You see, I took good aim and held the assault rifle firmly. Why didn't it hit?"

Shayanov embraced his comrade in a friendly manner:

"I want to give you some friendly advice. Trust in Allah if you wish, but also try not to make a mistake yourself. It would have been advisable to drill once again yesterday at the training point. But don't be distressed, I will help."

Now, in the evenings during time free from lessons the friends set out for the training range with the permission of the commander. They reviewed theory, worked out the procedures in assuming the position for firing, and learned to aim correctly. And already on the next firing Yuldashmatov did not repeat the errors and accomplished the exercise with a grade of good.

In the army, time races by unnoticed. The period of service of Private Shayanov approached the end. In saying goodbye to Yuldashmatov, he said with conviction:

"Things are going along normally with you. Stay with it. And always count on your comrades together with whom you are working. They are the most reliable among us. Believe in yourself, Fakhriddin!"

And Private Yuldashmatov followed his friend's advice. He acquired many good comrades. The soldier gradually began to understand that it was not Allah who appears next to him at a difficult moment, but they--his army friends. The contact with his fellow servicemen and skillful indoctrinational work did their work. They conducted it in a well thought out and methodologically regulated manner. No one attacked the believing soldier "head on," mocked him, or expressed hasty judgements. Outwardly unnoticed but daily and purposeful influence was exerted on Yuldashmatov gradually, step by step, in the crucible of soldierly service. A general healthy moral atmosphere in the troop collective contributed well to this.

From the examples which have been presented, it is not difficult to understand that among the varied forms of atheistic propaganda the decisive role belongs to individual work with the believer. It is precisely individual work which furthers most effectively the gradual withdrawal of the believers from religion. For nevertheless, such soldiers are an insignificant minority against the general background and the reasons for their religiousness are especially personal and individual in each case. In addition, individual work is almost the only method for getting in contact with a believing soldier who usually keeps secluded and tries to avoid mass anti-religious measures.

In working with a believer, it is very important to find the correct approach in each individual case, to win the person's confidence, to overcome in him prejudice against atheistic propaganda, and to display tact. It should not be forgotten that such a process which is as complex in its basis as giving up religion is the result of prolonged thought and, at times, of emotional experiences and doubts. Therefore, one should not yield to the temptation to make the believer an atheist at once. It is more useful for a beginning to arouse in his soul doubts concerning the truth of the dogma and to advise him to think a little more, interpret his surroundings, read, and to accustom him to social and cultural life and the affairs of the collective.

...Private A. Dobromirov did not conceal his belief in God from his fellow servicemen. Moreover, exploiting the fact that in the collective they were at first indifferent toward his religiousness, the soldier even tried to express to some of his associates views with which he had been crammed at one time by his mentors of the Baptist sect. One day the political officer, officer G. Mishin, was a witness to a talk between Private Dobromirov and his comrades. The believer told them about the divine punishments which allegedly await mankind for its sins. Only his co-religionists will be saved, he said. The soldiers openly chuckled at the unlucky "prophet" but no one decisively rebuffed him. The appearance of the political officer interrupted this talk. The believer, becoming ashamed, hastened to take off.

"Well, comrades, do you agree with what Private Dobromirov told you?"

"Of course not!" followed the unanimous answer. "We are not easily scared...."

"Then why did no one try to change the comrade's mind?"

"He speaks nonsense," one of the soldiers uttered sharply. "Is it really worth breaking the lance here?"

It is not difficult to understand the erroneousness of the position which the fellow servicemen of the believing soldier took. The very thought that in our enlightened age someone can seriously believe in the legend of the punishment of the Gods and of sinners in hell was, of course, absurd to them. They considered the statements of Private Dobromirov "whimsy." And some of the junior commanders went even further. Junior Sergeant Manekin, for example, considered disciplinary punishment to be the most effective means for combating the subordinate's religiousness.

Only after a thorough, serious talk with the political officer, officer Mishin, did the Komsomols of the subunit understand the entire importance and difficulty of the task facing them--the re-education of the believing fellow serviceman. Communists, Komsomol activists, and all men of the subunit had to work hard and long to convince the soldier of the erroneousness of his views.

The success of the struggle against religious vestiges in the army depends in significant measure on the correct, active position taken by commanders, political officers, and communists and Komsomols. Where atheistic propaganda is conducted persistently and creatively and where the indoctrinators display

self-control, tact, and respect for the feelings of the believers--there and only there do the believing soldiers begin to doubt the correctness of their world outlook and ultimately break with religion. In tearing the web which entangles their consciousness, they occupy a firm place in the ranks of the builders of communism and in the harmonious combat family of the motherland's defenders.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO ZNAMENOSETS EDITORS, RESPONSES

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 24 Nov 83)
pp 30-31

[Article: "Reader-Journal-Reader"]

[Excerpts] The Commander's Thanks

Recently a banner event occurred in the life of WO [Praporshchik] V. Artyukhov. The unit commander commended him for high achievements in combat and political training and for exemplary military discipline. This was Vasilii Ivanovich's 100th commendation and his colleagues warmly congratulated him.

"Which one is the most memorable?" his comrades asked.

"The first one, of course," he answered but, after thinking a bit, he clarified: "And probably one other..."

...The policeman waved his hand and the heavily laden automobile stopped on the shoulder.

"Excuse me for the delay," said the policeman at the post, saluting, "but duty is duty. An especially dangerous criminal escaped. He is armed. Take a look at the photograph, please. You possibly saw or will see him."

WO V. Artyukhov, the vehicle commander, carefully looked at the stranger's picture. No, he never had met him before and it was unlikely he would meet him in the future, for he only had to go to and from the depot. But still he had to memorize distinctive marks. What if?... Moreover, it is every citizen's duty to help the police.

Vasilii Ivanovich turned in the ammunition, reported this to the commander and returned home late in the evening. On the next day he was off and he wanted to do some bank fishing on the river.

As soon as it was light the warrant officer went fishing. He found a place at the edge of a city beach where swimmers didn't interfere and tossed out a line.

He didn't have any bites. Up until midday Vasiliy Ivanovich had pulled out only one red-finned carp and was about to go home, annoyed at his failure. Suddenly he saw among those resting on the bank a lad who had a bundle over his shoulder with outlines resembling a weapon. Artyukhov immediately recalled the policeman and the photo of the criminal. No doubt remained: This was the person the police were seeking.

But how was he to be detained? It was risky to go after the police, as the person might leave. Should he detain him himself? It was difficult for one person.

But the decision came and Vasiliy Ivanovich went up to several young lads resting on the beach. After introducing himself and briefly explaining the situation, Artyukhov explained what each of them was to do and how, and he was the first to intercept the criminal...

Several days later, when WO Artyukhov and his volunteer assistants S. Alekseyenko and V. Dolgov were in the police department giving testimony about what occurred on the riverbank, the telephone rang. The duty officer answered, then extended the phone to Vasiliy Ivanovich.

"The district commander wants to talk to you."

"How was the Sunday fishing, Comrade Artyukhov?" the general's voice came to Vasiliy Ivanovich.

"Nothing much, Comrade Commander," smiled Artyukhov. "It's true they weren't biting, but then..." and he fell silent in embarrassment. "You know about that..."

"I know, Vasiliy Ivanovich, and I thank you and the other comrades for the boldness you showed in detaining the criminal..."

"I serve the Soviet Union!" responded the warrant officer firmly and clearly.

Lt Col N. Mel'nichuk
Red Banner North Caucasus Military
District

Letter to the Editors: Get on Friendly Terms with Sports

Who has not had occasion to see a warrant officer who is not yet very old but who already has a noticeable belly and double chin? Or, to the contrary, he has a sunken chest and is emaciated and stooped. The military uniform on one is almost bursting at the seams, and on the other it hangs like a bag. Our unit also has such warrant officers... They are company first sergeants warrant officers [praporshchiki] K. Tilabayev, S. Sviridov, and M. Asanov... They show no concern for their physical training, which means combat training, or for their external appearance. They are unfamiliar with a sense of heartiness and military bearing which comes from regular physical training and sports activities.

Many questions arise when you think about these comrades. How will they withstand extreme physical and nervous stresses in an hour of severe ordeals? Or how does their obvious inattention to their physical training correlate with demands of the Command Training Program for Ground Forces Warrant Officers, where warrant officers are given the obligation "to maintain and improve the level of varied physical preparedness and endurance" and training time is specially set aside for these purposes?

Finally, who is at fault because people are not physically prepared? The warrant officers themselves are at fault, for they are not performing even the most basic morning gymnastics, they view their position almost as a variety of civilian work, and don't realize that they are on military duty and that an unseemly external appearance or the inability to set an example for subordinates on the obstacle course or in a field problem not only does harm to their authority, but also to the cause for which they serve.

It would appear that explanatory work must be performed with such warrant officers and they must be drawn by a positive example. The success of WO V. Mezhonnyy from the maintenance subunit is memorable. It was not at once that his subordinates, young soldiers, learned to work in protective masks and other individual protective gear, and while repulsing attacks by "enemy" sabotage groups with weapons in hand at that. The 44-year-old company first sergeant trained on an equal basis with the young privates and in the final inspection the subunit showed outstanding results.

There are many such examples. How important it is to use the experience of frontlinesmen in this work! Many of them affirm that they are obligated for their exploits and life itself to the conditioning which they acquired while engaging in physical training and sports.

In volunteering for duty in the USSR Armed Forces, each warrant officer assumes the obligation to serve faultlessly, but for some reason some commanders are inclined to look through their fingers at how some warrant officers cease to show concern for maintaining an athletic form.

If we were to succeed in getting all warrant officers on friendly terms with sports, it is our deep conviction that this would permit a noticeable elevation in the quality of combat training and combat readiness of the subunits.

WO A. Bezruchko, WO O. Syzanov,
WO V. Usachev,
Red Banner Central Asian Military
District

Editorial Reply: You're Not Right, Tamara Nikolayevna!

T. N. Boyeva, the wife of Sr WO V. Boyev, sent a letter to the editors of ZNAMENOSETS in which she told in detail about her husband's service and that he had unpleasantness because of frequent drinking bouts and problems in the family. "Now he doesn't drink and behaves as he should," wrote Boyeva. "He is a good company first sergeant and was always praised for the order and

discipline in the subunit; the barracks took first place for cleanliness, but the command element underrates him and decided to release him from the Army."

Dear Tamara Nikolayevna! We regarded your letter attentively, and we familiarized Maj Gen Yu. Bondarenko with it. Here is what he answered:

"During his period of service Sr WO V. A. Boyev has 27 disciplinary punishments, many of which involve drunkenness. Twice he was warned for incomplete conformity to duty. This year alone he was tried twice by a comrades' court of honor of warrant officers and extended-term servicemen. His behavior was discussed at a post warrant officer conference.

"Based on job and moral qualities and examining the certifying conclusion dated 27 May of this year, approved by a standing commission of the military unit, Sr WO Boyev was reduced in position at the request of the commander. Unfortunately, he did not draw appropriate conclusions from this and moreover, two weeks later again got drunk on duty and left the unit area without authorization. A warrant officer comrades' court of honor petitioned for his release from active military duty into the reserve for infractions discrediting the title of serviceman. The unit commander supported the court's judgment and submitted appropriate material for his release from the Army."

As you see, Tamara Nikolayevna, your opinion about your husband's duty and conduct does not coincide with the command's opinion.

You ask the editors to explain whether or not you are right. Now it has become clear to us that you are not right.

F. Kryuchkov
ZNAMENOSETS correspondent

Although a Letter was Not Typed: To Mogilev Instead of Bobruysk

WO V. Vishnevskiy wrote the editors that his personal file did not come for a long while when he was transferred to a new duty station. Capt 2d Rank M. Tareyev, a personnel entity worker, responded to our query. He reported that the serviceman's personal file had been sent erroneously from the city of Murmansk to the city of Mogilev instead of the city of Bobruysk, where Comrade Vishnevskiy is serving at the present time. The editors requested officials for this reason to send the personal file to the warrant officer's duty station.

The red tape occurred through the fault of WO [Michman] A. Napol'skikh. The unit commander gave him a strict reprimand for a negligent attitude toward the performance of official duties.

Help Promised

Soviet Army employee A. Timbayeva complained that the boiler room of the post where she works is in an emergency condition. Officials respond with curses to the lawful demands of the personnel who run it and do not delve into their needs.

Col V. Batura, deputy chief of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District political directorate, informed the editors that repairs to the boiler room are planned in the fourth quarter of this year. The deputy district commander for construction and troop billeting has taken additional steps on this matter.

Officers V. Domnichenko and P. Omel'chenko were given strict instructions on the inadmissibility of displaying crudity and an inattentive attitude toward examining the complaints of workers and employees.

He Drew No Conclusions

"For ten months now," writes WO [Praporshchik] G. Perunin, "I have been performing the duties of a technician, but was given in an order as a messhall chief. I inquired of appointed persons here on this matter, but they gave me no specific answer..."

The journal's editors asked the personnel directorate of the Red Banner Northern Fleet to explain why this happened. An answer soon came signed by Lt Col Ye. Kuzovkov. It states that following the completion of warrant officer school the subunit and unit commanders explained to Comrade Perunin that if he successfully performed OJT and mastered the sophisticated equipment, he would be appointed to the position of technician, but in the meantime he would be listed temporarily as messhall chief.

It further states in the letter: "In his ten months of duty in the unit WO G. N. Perunin has proved to be an undisciplined soldier and received six disciplinary punishments. He was heard at a warrant officer meeting about his performance of official duty and was told that he had a negligent attitude toward performing official duties, but WO Perunin did not draw proper conclusions for himself and continued to violate military discipline. . . . Now we have concluded that based on his moral and job qualities he cannot perform in the position of technician."

So that you, Comrade Perunin, are yourself at fault for the fact that you have not been assigned to this position.

It is apparent that the military unit command did not go over Comrade Perunin's job and moral qualities before sending him to train in the warrant officer school and did not fulfill minister of defense demands about selecting the best first-term servicemen for the position of warrant officer.

You Asked and We Answer

To WO [Praporshchik] A. Pisarevskiy

You asked in your letter for an explanation of the procedure for paying monetary compensation for a class rating in a case where servicemen who are rated specialists are appointed to new positions in related specialties.

In such cases the rating previously conferred is retained for six months from the date of appointment to new positions. During the period of filling these positions the monetary compensation for a rating is not paid inasmuch as these servicemen are not working in the specialty for which they were given a class rating. Such servicemen are paid the monetary compensation for a rating only after they confirm or raise the class rating in the new related specialty according to established procedure.

To Extended-Term Jr Sgt N. Shustov

You ask whether or not it is possible to receive the military rank of "warrant officer [praporshchik]" without completing a warrant officer school.

Yes, it is possible. According to the Statute on Performance of Military Duty by USSR Armed Forces Warrant Officers [Praporshchiki and Michmany], the military rank of "warrant officer" is conferred on privates, seamen, sergeants and petty officers with a secondary special or higher education related in training profile to the military specialty and who have served at least one year in the Army.

To WO [Praporshchik] G. Kolyada

You ask about the procedure for servicemen purchasing commodities on credit.

In connection with this, we explain that the features of military duty and the need to follow policy lead to certain restrictions in servicemen's use of credit. According to instructions of the deputy minister of defense and chief of rear of the USSR Armed Forces, the sale of durable goods on credit is authorized only for servicemen of military units and establishments located in closed garrisons through military exchange stores. To formalize purchases in these stores servicemen are issued guarantees of the established format at their place of duty. The issue of any kind of certificate to servicemen for them to acquire goods on credit is not provided for.

To Warrant Officers [Michmany] V. Dremov and A. Novikov

"Is duty in the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] (the militia) included in the overall length of service of warrant officers when they go on pension?" you wish to know.

A pension for length of service under conditions and for norms established for supervisory and rank-and-file personnel of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs entities can be awarded to warrant officers and extended-term servicemen released from active military duty and who previously have served in internal affairs entities (for example, in the militia) if their total length of service including duty in internal affairs entities is at least 25 years.

To WO [Praporshchik] V. Demidov

"Can a military unit compensate servicemen for living in a private apartment?" you ask.

As it was explained to us in the USSR Ministry of Defense Main Billeting and Maintenance Directorate, existing legislation does not provide for payment of compensation to servicemen for renting living space from tenants or owners of homes belonging to them with the right of private ownership.

For Our Readers

For eight months now the journal ZNAMENOSETS has published collections of articles under the rubric "Reader-Journal-Reader." They have contained your current and topical letters, the commentary and explanations of military lawyers on the questions raised, responses to a particular event, information about selfless acts by soldiers, rejoinders, reports about steps taken by appropriate entities in response to letters to the editors and in the wake of the journal's articles, and others.

The editors intend to continue to publish such collections. We would like to learn your opinion, dear readers, about their subject matter, content and format.

We await your letters!

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ARMED FORCES

LETTER TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

'Protecting' Insensitive Commander Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Major A. Ladin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Tacit Agreement"]

[Text] The editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA received a letter from a garrison lost in the wilderness of the steppe. It was written by Major A. Rykhov, a subunit deputy commander, and began with these lines:

In front of me is the 25 April 1981 issue of your newspaper. I am re-reading the article, "Krutoy kharakter" for the umpteenth time. The article correctly describes the crudeness and willfulness of our commander, A. G. Kolmykov, who is now already a lieutenant colonel. The newspaper subjected him to serious criticism on that occasion. One would think that the lesson had been instructive and would not be forgotten. But, no. Years passed and the man did not change. He is just the same: abrupt, prideful and uncivilized toward his subordinates. Who is at fault for the fact that the man has not changed, despite criticism of his conduct in the newspaper? Perhaps I am among those at fault. It is embarrassing to recall, but in conversation with your correspondent on that occasion two years ago, in trying to "cover" my commander and play up to him, I lied and denied the facts. Now I am sorry. I see that nothing positive was achieved from my actions.

Such was the admission in the letter which we received. It reminded us of the circumstances of this past conflict. It broke out upon the arrival in the subunit of Sr Lt K. Zil', who was by nature quick-tempered and who reacted sharply to injustice. Things at the post which previously had been hushed up suddenly became widely known. The young officer, not wanting to reconcile himself to the crudity, tactlessness and disdainful attitude of Major Kolmykov both toward himself personally and toward his co-workers, complained to his immediate supervisor. This was Officer I. Kovalenko. The reaction was most unexpected. All manner of things rained down on him. He was called a troublemaker and a quarrelsome person who wanted everything for himself.

Life in the subunit became impossible thereafter for the young Officer. Literally every day Major Kolmykov fell upon him with faultfinding. Sr Lt Zil'

wrote about this to the newspaper. He also wrote about Kolmykov's tactless behavior toward Ryzhov, his deputy commander. Kolmykov insulted his deputy in front of his subordinates, thinking to punish him in this way for the fact that the power plant which supplied electricity to the barracks and officers' quarters was in disrepair.

It had fallen upon me to check out on the ground everything about which Sr Lt Zil' had written. I remember very well who had taken what stance at that time.

Officers from his higher headquarters with whom I spoke denounced Major Kolmykov for not being able, and not trying to learn how, to relate to his subordinates with sensitivity, attentiveness and concern, and for the fact that in his conversations with them there prevails a coarse tone which suffers no objections. Also, Major Kolmykov frequently loses self control and resorts to direct insults.

According to the reply sent to the editors after publication of the critical correspondence, Kolmykov heard numerous justified reproaches from members of the party committee, which examined his personal situation at one of its sessions.

But Officer Kolmykov also had his defenders; most of all Officer Kovalenko. I remember that it was difficult to show him that the subunit commander's actions could not be justified as zealousness. Nor could they be covered up by reference to the number of structures economically erected on the subunit's territory. "Had Kolmykov not been firm and insistent in nature," Kovalenko tried to convince me, "nothing would have been built."

It seemed at the time that Officer Kovalenko and I were on opposite sides of a scale. I would put forth facts concerning Kolmykov's coarseness and lack of self-control, and Kovalenko would immediately "balance" them by his own arguments. He would say that, "on the other hand, Anatoliy Gennad'yevich was an outstanding specialist who accomplished all military training tasks with good and excellent ratings, and that therefore there was no cause for concern.

In other words, chips fly when you cut down a forest, and according to Officer Kovalenko, there is no way to get away from this. Consequently, one must close one's eyes to the costs of Kolmykov's style of work.

Major Kolmykov's second defender, strangely enough, was the very same Captain Ryzhov whom the commander had crudely insulted. Ryzhov openly denied this fact. Moreover, he denounced Zil' for daring to besmirch the good name of Kolmykov. He justified Major Kolmykov's abruptness and other thoughtless actions by his fervent zeal for his duties.

Frankly speaking, Ryzhov came across poorly on that occasion. He was guided by a desire to please Major Kolmykov, earn his confidence and thus change the major's attitude toward him. This attitude had not been good from the very outset. Kolmykov frequently reproached his deputy for negligence and lack of initiative. And there was good justification for this. Ryzhov really did suffer from these shortcomings. As a result, one failure led to the next.

Ryzhov felt that he was in total disgrace with Major Kolmykov, and he did not want to remain so. Therefore, he decided to use the opportunity to "patch up" their relationship.

As he writes, Ryzhov to some extent succeeded two years ago in "covering up" Kolmykov's mistakes -- to, so to speak, cast a shadow over a clear day. But he gained absolutely nothing from this. And what was there for him to hope for? That Major Kolmykov would close his eyes to his negligence? Everyone in the subunit knew, and Sr Lt Zil' himself, having written to the editors, was convinced that Major Kolmykov possessed the good character trait of being able to evaluate a person according to his work. The subunit commander himself did not avoid even the dirtiest work. And it is clear from everything that he wanted his subordinates to do the same.

And so Kolmykov was formally punished. And on the job Officer Kovalenko made his subordinate understand that the critical publication in the paper meant precisely nothing for him. Sr Lt Zil' did not stay long in the subunit. Soon he was transferred to a new place of duty on a completely specious excuse.

I must say that throughout this entire episode Political Officer V. Gerasimov took a passive position. In my latest trip to the garrison, now regarding the letter of Major A. Ryzhov (he was promoted, as also was Officer Kovalenko), I found no traces that would indicate educational work had been carried out with Communist Kolmykov, or that strict control had been exerted over how he was correcting the shortcomings in his style of work. Such an approach by the political Officer to a critical letter to the newspaper obviously was of no benefit.

And what is the result of this? The shortcomings in the style of work of Kolmykov, now already a lieutenant colonel, have not only become more ingrained, but have become still worse. Having served many years in the Army, he never learned to relate to people correctly, according to regulations, or even less from the heart. They do not come to him with their suggestions or their joys and sorrows. The thought never occurs to any of the sergeants or soldiers to seek the advice of Officer Kolmykov about their relations with their comrades, or to discuss what their parents write from home. And many grievances have accumulated. Private A. Prival'skiy remembered how crudely Officer Kolmykov treated the soldiers who were working on preserving equipment. Private V. Khramov noted that due to the blunder of one soldier, Officer Kolmykov deprived all of the opportunity of using insulated specialized clothing. Their jackets lay all winter in the personal warehouse of the subunit commander.

"Frequently," reported Sergeant A. Sadykov, a medical instructor, "I came in conflict with the pitiless attitude of Officer Kolmykov toward sick soldiers and sergeants. I tried to convince him, but to no avail."

During my check this fact was also disclosed. At the initiative of Officer Kolmykov, money was collected from the personnel for supposedly lost things. But in checking it turned out that all the clothing was on-hand in storage. Sergeant Major V. Lysenko proved this convincingly.

Officer Kolmykov himself discussed this incident. One time several sets of clothing disappeared from the subunit. Kolmykov decided to buy the things which had been lost with money collected from those at fault, both soldiers and sergeants. He bought them, but not in the Military Trading Organization store, but from a warrant officer in a neighboring unit.

Where did this "enterprising" seller get the clothing, I asked.

"That is of no interest to me!" answered Lt Col Kolmykov without a trace of embarrassment.

A familiar position! I began to try to recall whose utterances Kolmykov was echoing on this occasion.

Here there is no mistake. It was none other than Officer I. Kovalenko the time he, in describing the merits of his subordinate, stated: "Had it not been for Kolmykov, it would not have been possible to economically renovate and build. You see, no one was giving out materials!"

I ask:

"In that case, where did Officer Kolmykov get bricks, cement, fittings and other materials?"

"That is his business," Officer Kovalenko answered mysteriously. He got them!"

Major Ryzhov described the mechanics of this very "acquisition" in part in his letter to the editor. Lt Col Kolmykov himself brought up some details in his conversation with me. Without going into details I will say that this course of action is not deserving of praise.

Yet Officer Kovalenko praises Kolmykov at every opportunity. If he gets by without construction materials which he probably should have allocated, that's a "good fellow!" And he doesn't notice that the "good fellow" is departing ever more from the principled, party line of conduct for which he is supposed to stand firmly and inviolably.

At my first meeting in garrison with Officer Kolmykov, I also found much good in his service and work. He may have been entirely capable of eliminating his shortcomings and strengthening his commander's authority. And if he didn't do so, then to a large extent it was because Officer Kovalenko in essence pushed Kolmykov onto a no better path by his overly protective attitude.

I think that the senior supervisor and political organ will give a principled assessment to these facts.

Improved Warrant Officer Selection Urged

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial by N. Fedoseyev: "Blank Round"]

[Text] When the term of service of Private-Mechanic Sergey Podteteneyev was coming to an end, the squadron recommended that the aviation specialist go to warrant officer school. He agreed. Time passed and the young warrant officer returned to his home military collective. And here it was revealed that while at warrant officer school Podteteneyev seemed to have changed. He began rather frequently to violate military discipline. From talking to Podteteneyev I was able to learn that the warrant officer school had not placed the necessary demands upon him.

In my view, Podteteneyev had not been imbued with the necessary feeling of responsibility there. It seems to me that the aviator's training in the warrant officer school in this case turned out to be a "blank round." (Maj Engr A. Puchkov)

Comrade Puchkov, the editors asked our permanent correspondent in the Red Banner Siberian Military District, Lt Col N. Fedoseyev, to check out the facts of your letter. This is his report.

There really are many shortcomings in the educational work in some subunits of the warrant officer school. In particular, although people of various levels of training and life experience come here for training -- first term and extended service enlisted personnel, and those who have been in the reserves for a comparatively long time -- a differentiated approach to the students is not taken. Exemplary behavior of every officer is not yet ensured here. Captains Yu. Markelov and V. Kadetov themselves violate military discipline. All this takes place before the eyes of the future warrant officers. Being a student, S. Podteteneyev also saw all this.

Major V. Bykov, the company commander, told me that at first Podteteneyev performed well. But then his behavior noticeably changed for the worse. The question was even raised of expelling him from the warrant officer school, but the matter went no further than discussions. To the contrary, they started to close their eyes to his misdeeds.

I discussed this with Major Yu. Komarov, chief of the warrant officer school. He stated frankly that he was aware of the shortcomings in educational work with the students. What prevents them from being quickly eliminated? Without removing the blame for negligence from the school's officer leaders, I would like here to touch upon this question.

In front of me lies the reference on Warrant Officer Podteteneyev from his home unit. It states directly that the command made a mistake in selecting him as a candidate for warrant officer school. This means that the unit had not adequately studied the character traits of the soldier.

Alas, such facts are not isolated. Private S. Ivanov of the Ural Military District was bound for the warrant officer school with an irreproachable reference. But on the way he was detained for intoxication. Then checking revealed that in his unit the soldier had a reputation for disciplinary violations. The

same story was also true of extended service Sr Sgt V. Vatlin from Group of Soviet Soviet Forces, Germany. Other examples can also be given which bear witness to formalism in the selection of servicemen to become warrant officers.

From this a conclusion suggests itself. The problem of improving the quality of training of the future officers' closest assistants can be solved successfully only by close contact between the school and military units, and through their joint efforts. Units should be more strict in their selection of candidates for training, and thoroughly consider their personal qualities. And it is the duty of school commander-educators, political officers and instructors to seek persistently to achieve an inseparable link between the processes of military training and moral education.

Officers' Moral Values Discussed

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 84 p 2

[Letter by Capt Lt Engr B. Orlov: "The Word of an Officer"]

[Text] Several months ago I saw the movie, "Tale of the Siberian Land," which was released in our country in the years just following the war. I especially remembered one of the episodes and will recall it briefly.

A reserve sergeant major was jealous of his fiancée's interest in a reserve officer. A conflict flared up between the two war veterans, but it was solved in an amazingly simple way. The officer who was the subject of the jealousy, in order to dispel the unwarranted suspicions of his comrade, gave his word as an officer that he had no pretensions on the girl's love. The assurance was worth many words of explanation. This is how the war veterans valued an officer's word of honor!

Why did this episode ingrain itself in my memory? I think because during my years of service I have almost never heard anyone say: "I give you my word as an officer." True, some of my co-workers have sometimes used the expression, "word of honor," but it has a somewhat different shade of meaning.

Why has the expression, "the word of an officer," fallen from use and become an anachronism? Most likely this has happened because the moral climate in our military collectives has reached a level that it goes without saying that an officer must keep his word. In most cases this does happen. But, unfortunately, not always.

I will tell of one instance. It was morning, after the Naval Flag had been raised, and the chief specialist summoned me. It had happened that an officer of a ship which was going to sea in two hours had fallen seriously ill. An immediate replacement was required and I had been selected.

I had only enough time to get to the ship and set about my duties. Enroute I remembered that I had not been able to warn my wife about my departure. The past week she had not been well, and excessive agitation might have worsened her condition. Happily, I met an officer acquaintance near the pier. I

explained the situation and asked him to look in on her after work. He promised to fulfill my request.

"Don't worry, I gave my word and will do it," my comrade reassured me.

When the ship returned to base after a week, I learned that my acquaintance had not kept his word.

Of course, it is not only a matter of this fact itself, but of more serious things. You see, officers have soldiers or seamen as subordinates. And a teacher does not have the right to throw words to the wind.

Frequently I have observed that officers who did not keep their word were merely slightly taken to task, and in a half-joking manner. Nothing else was done.

I think that this is not the best situation. If we cease to confirm something which is morally important, it is inevitably diminished and loses priority. Therefore, it seems to me that the expression, "the word of an officer," has been undeservedly forgotten in our relationships.

FROM THE EDITORS.

We believe that your letter, Dear Comrade Orlov, will find a response among the readers of the newspaper. No doubt each of them will interpret the issue in his own way. But in any case the letter touches an important aspect of an officer's moral education and breeding, which warrants an extended discussion.

Class Category Testing Lapses

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Baturin: "But the Commission Did Not Come"]

[Text] Dear Editors! At the end of the past training year we were supposed to have taken tests for raising our class category. But we waited in vain for the arrival of a qualification commission from higher headquarters. As a result, many officers and warrant officers did not fulfill their socialist commitments. But are they really at fault for this? (Sr Lt V. Nazarov, Red Banner Central Asian Military District)

At the request of a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Col V. Baturin, chief of engineer forces in the military district, answers the officer's question.

"I can understand your feeling, Comrade Senior Lieutenant. It is truly unfortunate when your commitments are unfulfilled for reasons beyond your control. What prevented responsible officials from conducting the tests for raising class category in the unit in a timely fashion? They should be conducted at the time determined by regulations; i.e., after completion of the training

year. With this aim in mind, we in the administration have created ad hoc qualification commissions. The place of assignment and testing days have been determined for each of them.

"A check conducted in response to your letter, Comrade Nazarov, showed that those primarily responsible in this incident were the chairman of the ad hoc qualification commission, Col Engr V. Ivchenko and his deputy, Maj Engr M. Supronovich. They did not complete their duties on time. More precisely, tests for raising class category were not conducted in all units they were to visit.

"This fact was discussed in earnest at an officer's conference, and later at a party meeting in the administration. The communists subjected the actions of officers Ivchenko and Supronovich to strict criticism. They were reminded that during the summer period your unit had not paid enough attention to raising class categories. Members of the ad hoc qualification commission knew of this situation in the collective, but their attitude toward the shortcomings was indifferent and they did not take the necessary steps to eliminate them.

"Gaps in the training of your subunit became known again in spring of the past training year, when in field exercises the engineer vehicle driver-mechanics and other specialists poorly accomplished the prescribed duties. Officers G. Baglayenko and V. Nikolayev also demonstrated poor individual training. You, Comrade Nazarov, obviously have not forgotten the serious criticism made of your own professional training.

"It is good that you correctly accepted the critical remarks and worked hard during the summer period in order to correct your mistakes. Therefore, you obviously awaited the arrival of the qualification commission with impatience. By the same token, no one else in your subunit showed concern about the lack of testing for raising class categories. For example, why were Captain S. Puschnikov, subunit commander; Captain V. Khirnyy, chief of staff; and Sr Lt S. Krivenchuk, former party organization secretary silent? Because, I think, they did not wish to have their own shortcomings made known. The results of the work of the qualification commission in the subunit could hardly have made them happy. As it came to light later, the majority of the officer and warrant officer specialists were not ready for serious testing.

"Most likely this is why the subunit did not even send to higher headquarters, as it was supposed to, a list of specialists ready to be tested for higher class categorization.

"In conclusion, I wish to say that officers Ivchenko and Supronovich have received a strict warning about the omissions in their work. They have been ordered to conduct class category testing in your subunit in the very near future. Here in the administration we have developed a more precise system for monitoring the training of higher category specialists in engineer subunits. In the future we will continue to generalize the experience of the best commanders in improving the training material and technical base, and give specific assistance to officers in the subunits, in order to raise the level of their theoretical and methodological training."

Railcar Unloading Inefficiency Scored

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 84 p 2

[Letter by Lt Col Ya. Oreshchich, officer of the Military Transport Directorate, Sverdlovsk Railroad: "The Rail Cars Stand Idle"]

[Text] Agreements are signed in order to be fulfilled. Probably Major V. Arkhipov also thought about this when he gave his written commitment about on-time receipt of goods delivered by railway workers for the needs of the unit. However, judging by everything he immediately forgot about the responsibility which he had undertaken. Unloading of rail cars is proceeding very poorly. Cars sometimes stand idle for three or four days merely due to the inefficiency of Major Arkhipov himself. But more often the reason is that work is carried out in an amateurish manner, and moreover only during daylight hours. Small powered equipment is hardly ever used, and major equipment items are in a pitiful condition. Both dump trucks and both bulldozers are inoperable, and only one of the two cranes is working.

It is not surprising that last year not a single rail car in the unit was unloaded within the established time periods. While the norm is 2.3 hours, unloading took an average of 9.5 hours. Meanwhile, every hour of excessive idle time also increases the already substantial fines which the railroad must pay. Thus, in 1982 fines exceeded 26,000 rubles, and this year the sum will barely be reduced. But this doesn't seem to disturb Major V. Arkhipov a bit. He always has a justification. But here, as before, the necessary organization is lacking.

Employees of the military transport organs have repeatedly reminded the officer of the inadmissibility of this situation. It has not helped. It was necessary to appeal to his supervisors. To my great chagrin, they did not understand either. Many of our letters were not even answered. Only Colonel P. Kompaniyets responded. He stated that necessary measures would be taken. However, several months have already passed and the loads, as they say, are still there. In this case it would seem that the time has come for the military prosecutor's office to intervene. But the answer of Col Justice V. Shcherbak on the results of the prosecutor's investigation greatly surprised us. Yes, shortcomings exist, but seemingly there is no one to hold responsible for them.

Are not responsible officials simply pandering to bad management by their lack of demandingness?

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ARMED FORCES

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GROUND FORCES

SELECTION FOR MILITARY SPECIALTY TRAINING CRITICIZED

Moscow ZNAMENOSSETS in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 24 Nov 83) pp 8-9

[Article by ZNAMENOSSETS correspondent Lt Col V. Panov, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "In Army and Navy Training Subunits: What Will the Cadet Be?"]

[Text] At a critical moment the exercise director disabled the tank commanded by Jr Sgt S. Demenyuk. That narrative problem was dictated by the existing situation. An "enemy" tank had appeared at flat-trajectory range but the crew continued to fire the machinegun against a less important target. In actual combat such a mistake could have cost the tankmen dearly.

It was not the first time Demenyuk's inability to control the crew in combat had showed up, and so the senior commander transferred him to another position.

Hadn't they handled the junior sergeant too abruptly?

"No," objected Maj E. Safiullin in a conversation with me, "Demenyuk will not make a genuine commander. He doesn't have the ability to shift attention rapidly or have a broad view of the battlefield, and he lacks resolve. Nature failed to endow him with these qualities, and without them there will be no commander. By the way," continued the major, "several NCO's from every new group of replacements have to be transferred to other positions for this same reason. This understandably has a negative effect on the quality of combat training."

I had occasion to talk with other officers who have NCO's arriving under their command from the training subunits. The opinions coincided and the question suggests itself: If at times NCO's arrive for the positions of tank commanders and do not have the necessary qualities, does that mean the training subunits are not always determining the cadets' specialization correctly? Let's begin from the beginning, as they say.

When the call-up begins representatives are sent to the collection points from the training subunits to do the work of selecting people. It is practically impossible to chat thoroughly with each person and so familiarity with a new recruit occurs primarily from documents. Preference is given to those who have a higher, secondary technical and general secondary education and working

experience in the national economy, albeit small. After completion of joint and individual training in the training subunit, the decision is made as to what the cadet will be. There is an appropriate Statute which states in particular: "Based on results of the grades of a field exercise as well as consideration of suggestions by company officers and NCO's, the specialization of further training is determined for each cadet. All positive points and deficiencies throughout the entire joint training period must be considered here. A commission and subcommissions are formed for selection."

I attended a session of such a subcommission, which included the battalion commander, his political deputy, the company commander, chief of the unit medical service and Komsomol committee secretary. None of them actually knew the platoon cadets, the future tank commanders submitted by Sr Lt S. Silant'yev. Only company commander Capt A. Yarots could say something about some of them. But the subject was people who in the not-too-distant future were to form, in M. V. Frunze's words, "that basis on which the entire matter of discipline, combat teamwork and combat training of the unit rests." Just how did the subcommission cope with the task? In my view, the selection bore a formal nature. Judge for yourselves.

Several persons from the platoon were transferred to be gunners. For what reasons? For example, Cadet V. Okulov was transferred because of a reserved and sluggish character, which was especially noticeable in drill training classes. Cadet A. Chistyakov raised his voice at a neighboring platoon's squad commander, i.e., he violated discipline. Cadet V. Sirenko was mastering the curriculum poorly. An officer said of Cadet E. Makar'yan that "he isn't able to work" and nothing more specific. On the other hand, Cadet P. Vidyakin, who was, in his own words, indifferent as to what he would be, was made a commander. Cadet L. Yevdokimov was made the same because he was "accustomed to the collective." Former tractor operators cadets S. Zavidov and S. Logvinov also ended up as commanders although experience indicates that the best driver-mechanics come specifically from tractor operators. In short, I just didn't succeed in tracing any system in the selection, just as I didn't succeed in hearing, if only a word, about results of the field exercise which, according to the Statute, plays a substantial role in determining the specialization of a cadet's training. One might ask: Are subcommissions necessary?

"Such subcommissions are not needed at all," said former training unit chief Lt Col A. Khachaturyants. "They have to be formed in the companies from people who know the cadets well, but we have a guideline to set up subcommissions in battalions as well, where staff representatives are included. And so we are forced to engage in formalism."

The officer probably is right. Familiarization with the cadet selection methods in other training subunits permits the conclusion that subcommissions are formed for a "checkmark."

Nevertheless, is it possible to study people in the period of joint training and determine their suitability for a particular military specialty? Is there some kind of system and specific, and not general, recommendations? It cannot

be said that there is nothing at all. For example, the staff has drawn up a model of a so-called cadet psychological card. As a rule, however, it is filled out at a single swoop prior to a subcommission session. Moreover, the card does not give a complete idea of a person or his character. Unfortunately the officers of training subunits have nothing else. It is no accident that the brief appraisals of the cadets given by the platoon commander at the subcommission session sounded approximately the same: diligent, competent, disciplined. Only rarely were there "remarks": has an inclination for equipment (Cadet V. San'kov), loves equipment (Cadet G. Podoprigora), hot-tempered (Cadet V. Yemelin), and so on. From such a description one can't understand whether or not a cadet has the necessary command gifts or what is his preparedness, working ability, moral and psychological stability, and capability to fully master the curriculum. This is why, following the session, no one--neither the platoon commander nor the subcommission members--could say with assurance that all selected cadets corresponded to their future specialty and that not one of them would be transferred to be a gunner.

Of course, one can complain that the special literature does not yet have scientifically developed recommendations for the selection of people for the positions of junior commanders, but we also cannot wait for such aids to arrive. Initiative has to be shown in the training subunit itself and effective methods have to be sought to study cadets more thoroughly, the more so as there is a precisely organized training process here, experienced, qualified commanders and a contemporary training facility. Frankly speaking, however, almost no work is being done in this direction.

I recall a story in this connection. Several years ago a tank battalion where Maj I. Ivonchik was technical supply officer attained great fame in the Red Banner Carpathian Military District. Each of its driver-mechanics became a highly rated specialist after a year of duty. How did Ivonchik achieve this? The officer on his own drew up several tests consisting of theoretical, practical and psychological questions. Using these tests he received a clear idea about the new recruits in the very first days and subsequently arranged the entire training and indoctrination process with consideration of their individual features. He would make an excellent specialist even from a poorly trained driver-mechanic in a short time.

I cited this example to emphasize the role of tests and the possibility of performing a selection on a scientific basis. No additional expenditures are needed for this, which also is of no small importance--one only has to make wider use of the training facility. For example, using electronic simulators it is possible to easily and quickly check the attention span, precision of thinking, proper coordination of thought and motor processes and a number of other human qualities determining the presence of command inclinations. The simulators and tests also can be used successfully in determining the suitability of cadets of other specialties. In short, there are opportunities, but some people lack one thing--initiative and, I would say, courage to resolutely reject old, outmoded work methods.

It stands to reason that tests and simulators represent only one direction of the work of which training subunit commanders are capable. If the question were posed on a broader basis, one should say that the situation insistently demands a scientific substantiation of the junior commander selection system and elaboration of appropriate recommendations and a methodology for determining the specialization of future NCO's. The ball now is in the court of the military psychologists, pedagogues and physicians. This problem can be resolved successfully only through joint efforts.

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NAVAL FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING FOR OPERATING COMPLEX NAVAL EQUIPMENT

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 20 Dec 83) pp 43-47

[Article by Rear Adm A. Pushkin, candidate of naval sciences: "The Deeper the Knowledge, the Higher the Combat Readiness"]

[Text] Having undergone radical changes, in recent years the Navy has become ocean-going, nuclear-missile, and capable of accomplishing strategic missions. Contemporary submarines and surface ships are equipped with mighty weapons and combat equipment with a high degree of reliability. However, this property which they possess is caused not only by design features, but also by correct operation and the seamen's knowledge and ability to find and eliminate malfunctions.

The experience of the Great Patriotic War provides many examples where good technical preparedness and state of training of the personnel permitted eliminating combat and emergency damage to a ship and achieving success in single combat with the enemy under the most difficult conditions.

...In May 1942 submarine M-172 of the Northern Fleet retired from the pursuit of enemy ships after a successful attack. They bombed brutally. Several instruments and mechanism went out of action. Under difficult conditions and with emergency illumination the seamen eliminated the breakdowns and got the submarine under way. When electric power ceased reaching the central compartment, planesmen N. Tikhonenko and V. Semenov momentarily switched to manual control. However, the tests for the seamen did not end with this. Several minutes later the trim indicator and depth gauge ceased operation. The submarine could find itself on the surface, and this was certain death. And again the helmsmen did not become confused. They established communication with the forward compartment where there was another depth gauge and received data on the position of the ship over the speaking tube. Thanks to their skill and excellent knowledge of their duties the submarine was able to break away from the enemy and return safely to base.

The coordinated, energetic actions of the personnel when fighting for the survivability of the ship and the preservation of its combat capability are attained by painstaking training and systematic drills. For seamen, regardless of their specialty, it is extremely important to know to perfection not only the

weapons and equipment which they service, but also the structure of the compartment and the ship as a whole. Even on a regular cruise the submarine crew is opposed by insidious ocean elements and the tremendous impact of water at great depths. The submariners often operate thousands of miles from their base where they cannot count on the immediate assistance of the shore services. And you see, the ship exists for battle with the enemy's inevitable counteraction. Therefore, there should be not one blank spot in the study of the combat equipment.

During my long service on submarines, I never encountered seamen who would not understand these simple truths. But it is one thing to understand them, and another to follow them in large and small. Some lieutenant or petty officer displays enviable zeal in service; there is no denying his desire to pass the tests on knowledge of the ship's structure at the established time. But here is what sometimes happens. The young submariner did not completely understand the scheme for one mechanism or instrument or another and he was ashamed to turn to senior comrades for advice. Suddenly, they say, they think that he did not study the specialty diligently and therefore he is not properly prepared precisely in elementary problems. And the gap in knowledge makes itself felt without fail.

...During a departure for sea, the maneuver "Crash Dive" was worked out. The watch service was led by Lieutenant Zh. Alekseyev. It seemed as though he did everything in accordance with the instructions, but the submarine had hardly begun to submerge when water began to enter the conning tower. The commander immediately stopped execution of the maneuver.

Just what had happened? Lieutenant Alekseyev forgot to check whether the bleeder valve on the conning tower was closed. Moreover, he did not imagine what thread the bleedervalue has. He assumed that it was right-hand--the most widespread.

The commander immediately invited all officers who were permitted to stand under-way watch to the flying bridge. Explaining how the maneuver "Crash Dive" should be executed, he turned their attention to the special feature that the bleeder valve has a left-hand thread. Then he conducted a drill. The officers did everything required for the maneuver without the actual submersion of the submarine. Many of them found nothing unusual in this. They already had great experience in ocean cruises and crash dives. And Alekseyev understood that, perhaps, the commander organized the drill for his sake alone.

The lieutenant waited for the commander to give him a rough going-over right here. But, entering the commander's cabin the young officer felt as if a stone had been lifted from his heart: the eyes of his senior comrade looked on him kindly. And a conversation took place on how one should know the ship and how important it is.

In the lieutenant's soul that memorable talk left not so much the fear of again making a mistake as the ardent desire to study the construction of the ship and its equipment and armament better.

The naval seaman's combat skill presumes a level of knowledge, skills, and moral and psychological qualities which ensures the maximum use of the

capabilities contained in the weapons and equipment for the attainment of victory in battle. In the difficult process of their mastery the basic organizing basis is the efficient use of existing procedures and methods for the training of personnel and the search for new ones. Including lessons in specialties, exercises at which fundamental damage control measures are worked out, drills at battle stations, and so forth.

On the whole, the system of technological training which exists in the fleet is justifying its intention. This is shown by the successful ocean cruises of ships where the professional training of the crews is displayed especially visibly.

For example, the crew of the nuclear missile submarine commanded by Captain 1st Rank V. Zhuravlev completes each such long cruise with high results. The stable successes are predetermined by the deep knowledge of the seamen and the skillful use of the ship's combat capabilities. Here special and military-technical training are well organized. In the mastery of weapons and equipment the commander employs advanced methods and persistently introduces them into the training process. At the same time, he is a persistent champion of the clear organization of each training measure and planned discipline. In the unit, they do not remember a case where lessons were disrupted or conducted with poor quality on this ship or where one of the seamen did not pass tests at the established times to be permitted to service his area of responsibility independently or did not accomplish the obligation to raise his proficiency rating.

The party organization of the missile carrier renders great assistance to the commander in mobilizing the personnel for conscientious training. All communists set an example of the persistent mastery of combat equipment and are masters of military affairs and highly rated specialists. On their initiative and with their active participation, technical quizzes and contests are conducted among the crew for best knowledge of the ship's construction as are competitions for first place in working out the elements of damage control for weapons and technical equipment and for the best compartment and battle station in combating fire and water.

The seamen have long known the indisputable truth: the sea does not like smatterers. And nevertheless, although infrequently, preconditions for accidents still occur and breakdowns of mechanisms arise through the fault of the personnel.

How can a further rise in the special training of the seamen be attained? How can the time allotted for their instruction be used better and more fruitfully? These questions are at the center of attention of fleet commanders and political officers and the party and Komsomol activists.

In the N-th submarine force, for example, they are solved creatively, placing stress on independent study. Here the technical training of the officers of the engineer department has been significantly improved. Each year, the best trained of them are given individual assignments which require deepened knowledge and, I would say, the scientific study of problems in the use of combat equipment. Thus, Engineer-Captain 3d Rank V. Stepuk was given the assignment to study and generalize the experience in operating the submarine's electrical

equipment under conditions of increased humidity; Engineer-Captain 3d Rank V. Savel'yev--the experience in conducting the maintenance of the materiel during a long cruise; Engineer-Captain 2d Rank N. Popov--to analyze the practice of the accelerated charging of the storage batteries, and so forth.

During a certain time the officers work on individual assignments and write papers. Then assemblies are conducted at which the officer who investigated a problem gives a report. In the course of the assemblies, recommendations are worked out and they are drawn up in the corresponding document, the implementation of which becomes mandatory for all.

Such a method permits generalizing favorable experience accumulated on the leading ships and propagating it in all crews.

As a result, in this force there have been no accidents and breakdowns through the fault of the personnel for many years already, the level of the officers' special knowledge and the style for servicing technical equipment are being raised, and the organization of repair is being improved.

Here organizational and party-political work on ensuring the competent, accident-free operation of technical equipment and eliminating the slightest deviations from the requirements of the instructions and manuals is being conducted purposefully. Ship's specialists have good professional training. Not so long ago, at sea master of military affairs Warrant Officer [michman] V. Kovalev prevented the breakdown of the engine, discovering in good time its poor-quality preparation for operation.

Active, systematic technical propaganda furthers a rise in the men's special training. Operating on the ships and in the units are universities and schools, lecturing bureaus and motion picture lecture bureaus for military-technical knowledge, and question and answer soirees on the construction of the ship and various combat equipment, contests for the best knowledge of the battle station, and competitions in damage control are conducted.

Many commanders and political officers make skillful use of the mobilizing force of socialist competition and the movement under the slogan, "For new equipment--a higher level of its mastery," to increase the number of masters of combat qualifications and rated specialists. Such an effective form for raising the level of technical knowledge as competition for the right to be called follower of the best specialist of the war years has also received wide dissemination in the fleet.

In the submarine force mentioned above, the communists and Komsomols come forth as its leaders. By the decision of the commander and the political department, a named prize is approved in honor of one of the best specialists of the war years or a hero of peacetime routine days. It is awarded to the crew which has achieved the best results in the accomplishment of training-combat missions and standards, the mastery, effective employment, and maintenance of equipment and weapons, and ensuring their constant readiness for operation.

In determining the winners, consideration is given to the level of the men's combat skill, their early passing of tests for permission for the independent

servicing of their areas of responsibility, and the practical realization of initiatives: "In the first year of service on the ship--2d class, in the second year--1st class," and "Each warrant officer on the ship--a master of military affairs."

The aviators of the Navy have much that is instructive in this regard. For example, on one of the flying-tactical exercises in the air unit where officer V. Pupynin serves, on the recommendation of party and Komsomol activists a struggle was initiated among the pilots and navigators for the right to be entered in the "Combat Flying Books" of twice Hero of the Soviet Union V. Rakov and Hero of the Soviet Union P. Khokhlov.

This initiative was approved by the political department of the Naval Air Forces. Conditions for socialist competition were elaborated under the slogan, "Take the hero as your example" and "Combat Flying Books" named after famous people were instituted. Each of them contained brief biographies of V. Rakov and P. Khokhlov, a description of their exploits, and the frontline fighters' orders to the men. "Remember, dear friends," writes Major General of Aviation (Retired) V. Rakov, "in battle the winner is the one who is stronger than the enemy and who has the better equipment, higher skill, and morale. So, study military affairs in a genuine manner. Let the steadfastness and courage, firmness of spirit and valor, and high skill of the Baltic Fleet aviators of the war years always serve as an example for you."

Being the equal of the frontline fighters, the fleet aviators are achieving the quality accomplishment of flight missions and the effective employment of weapons and are increasing aerial training, tactical skill, performance, and discipline.

The competition for the right to be called the successor of the best specialist of the war years assists in the raising of the quality of the seamen's technical training, the further development of military-patriotic work among the Komsomols and youth in the propagandizing and augmentation of combat traditions, and the propagation of leading experience in raising high-class specialists and masters of military affairs.

For the one who is awarded the honorable right to be called the successor of the best specialist of the war years should be an expert of combat and political training and a first-class specialist or master of military affairs, maintain his area of responsibility in an exemplary condition, accomplish the requirements of the instructions and manuals on operation irreproachably, prevent the breakdown of the materiel entrusted to him, and prepare two or three seamen to take the examinations for the independent control of a battle station and one or two for examinations for a second-class rating. Ideological growth and the man's socio-political activity and his participation in the innovator movement and mass sports work are also taken into consideration.

The best specialists of the war years are determined in each fleet. In particular, the submariners of the Baltic Fleet are maintaining their alignment on such frontline heroes as Petty Officer First Class N. Kucherenko--a sonarman of Shch-406, Senior Seaman D. Reud--radio operator of Shch-320, Petty Officer

Second Class F. Nekrasov--torpedoman of Shch-406, Petty Officer First Class P. Velichko--electrician of S-13, Senior Seaman A. Solov'yev--machinist of D-2, Petty Officer First Class G. Fadeyev--damage controller of Shch-310, Petty Officer First Class A. Volkov--helmsman-lookout of S-13, and others.

In the Northern Fleet, a set of leaflets published by the political directorate is devoted to the best specialists of the war years. A picture of the front-line fighter is given on the left side of the leaflet and his exploits are related briefly. The right side is left for a photograph of the successor and illumination of his military deeds. Such a leaflet is placed on a specially allotted place at the battle station.

The honorable title of successor of the best frontline specialist is awarded to the men by order of the ship's commander by 9 May--the anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War and by 29 October--the Komsomol birthday. The seamen who are awarded this title are awarded certificates and testimonials.

Successes are present where competition is well organized. Thus, on one of the nuclear submarines the number of masters of military affairs alone more than doubled in two years. Tangible results in the competent operation and care of combat equipment and weapons and ensuring their faultless operation were achieved by the crew of the ship where the commander of the engineer department is Captain 2d Rank A. Stadnik. Here many men have been awarded state rewards for the successful accomplishment of missions assigned to the ship.

Profound knowledge and firm practical skills of each naval seaman are the guarantee of the crews' combat capability and a rise in the ships' combat readiness. In remembering this, commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations are seeking and realizing reserves and capabilities to improve the technical training of the personnel, use training time more efficiently, and intensify the training process further.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

VOYENNYE ZNANIYA TAKES A SECOND LOOK AT CIVIL DEFENSE IN VELSK

Moscow VOYENNYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 7 Dec 83)
pp 18-19

[Article by special correspondent V. Krasnovskiy: "Five Years Later"]

[Text] This past autumn was one of beauty and abundance in Velsk--a rayon center in the southern part of Arkhangelsk Oblast. The trees, rivaling one another in the richness of their colors, seemed to be challenging man to immerse himself in the infinite expanses of the northern woods. And the woods did not let him down. Although the houses were already filled with tubs of pickled pepper mushrooms, September continued to bear its gifts: The mushroom gatherers harvested the edible boleti not in small baskets but in dozens of large baskets. Even on the small civil defense training ground, one could not take a step without knocking over a hearty boletus. Rayon civil defense chief of staff V. Zhitnukhin, who had assumed the job only a year before, and V. Makhotin, chief of the Velsk civil defense courses, were not enticed by the boleti, however.

The Velsk homes were probably filled with various pickled foods from the generous autumn gifts 5 years ago as well. The only thing not to the taste of some people were various inspections conducted from the oblast as a result of a letter written to our magazine by one of the production training masters in the rayon civil defense courses. It contained some critical facts. With the passing of time a desire to learn what changes had been made brought us to this abundant region....

The following is from a letter written in 1979: "While reading VOYENNYE ZNANIYA my attention was drawn particularly to the good civil defense work being performed at facilities and in the civil defense courses. I compare this with our Velsk Rayon courses, of which V. Makhotin is the chief, and my mood is automatically ruined. There is nothing to be learned here."

Not all of the courses in the rural areas can boast of a civil defense training ground today. Some of them have done no more than include one in the plans, and this is not the first year they have done so. But Velsk has one. Furthermore, the rayon competitions among medical aid teams were held there. On a day in May V. Makhotin, chief of the rayon civil defense courses at that time, drove out for a practical exercise with his masters. In the Indian summer he conducted a graphic class on the subject "The Civil Defense Training Materials Base" for

a new training production master.... That was all. After that no person set foot there to undergo practical training, not to speak of the equipment on which fightingmen of the formations are supposed to train. This is why the boleti chose to grow on the floor of the training facility.

The point calling for "servicing practical classes for the training groups according to a schedule (the civil defense training ground)" added to the yearly training plan by the course masters was not fulfilled. Where were the fightingmen of the teams, groups and sections acquiring practical skills in digging out blocked shelters? In decontaminating clothing, footwear, food and forage? Where were they learning how to protect livestock? We could only guess about all of this: In the civil defense courses they had difficulty providing us with the answers to these questions. And I believe that an exercise in the sections of the civil defense training ground for the fighting men of a formation would have been far more effective than any lecture presented in the classroom.

The following is from the letter written in 1979: "...during the training year the courses provided no assistance with the organization or the conduct of civil defense measures on a single kolkhoz or sovkhoz. Most of the people did not attend civil defense courses at all...."

Last year they helped the installations in their rayon, but in four rayons assigned to the Vel'sk courses--Shenkursk, Ustyanskiy, Konosha and Kargopol--most of the people involved in civil defense did not lay eyes on the production training masters.

None of the workers in the Vel'sk courses visited Kargopol Rayon once during all of last year. With respect to the motor vehicle club they explained that the road is poor, that the masters were held up by the travel fund. They reached Konosha Rayon only once, with a 3-hour train ride. During the 10 training months the production training masters thus performed their job on only half of the territory assigned to the courses. The Vel'sk people apparently do not like to leave their homes, even though the system of traveling to the sites to conduct classes has long been accepted as the main system.

From the letter written in 1979: "...Reports submitted on the training of the command personnel of nonmilitary civil defense formations and the instructors are not accurate."

At first glance all of the consolidated reports for the past training year appeared to reflect the reality. The report figures for the year were below the planned figures with respect to the training of teachers, as an example. For the other categories, the planned and actual figures matched. The plan was even exceeded for the training of civil defense instructors. We know, however, that Konosha and Kargopol are client rayons for the Vel'sk people, that four groups in all were to be trained there. Just how were these people trained? The answer is simple: They assembled other people for the training--from installations in Vel'sk. Why should they do any traveling? The specialists in the national economy covered by the plan for those rayons were also replaced with Vel'sk people, and the same was true of dozens of civil defense commanders and chiefs in Kargopol and Konosha. Why render reports for each rayon? Gross

figures are better! And the fact that somewhere untrained instructors are going to be training the people is no problem: People other than experts can do this.

Others became infected with the practice of substituting what is desired for what is real. With V. Makhotin we visited the Arkhremlestekhnika Production Association, an industrial facility whose civil defense is assigned to the rayon courses. Everything is in good order there. Everything is as it should be. In the assembly and machine shops, however, we questioned ten workers who are not members of formations: "When have you attended civil defense classes"? Only half of them told us last year; three said year before last; and two of them could not even remember, although each of them had worked at least 5 years at the enterprise. Only then did N. Ladygin, senior engineer for civil defense at the facility, tell us that three groups--the groups of the assembly shop and the transportation section and workers in the repair and construction administration and the housing and public utilities section--that is, almost a third of the total number of workers who were supposed to undergo training--did not receive it.

September was coming to an end, but there was no class schedule anywhere.

From the letter written in 1979: "...The general education schools received no help with the civil defense work. The reports on the training of 2d- and 5th-grade teachers are not accurate. For example, a group of 22 teachers assembled for 2 days. On paper the figure was much higher...."

The class logs for last year indicated that the 2d-grade teachers had the 14-hour program, as required by the general program, and the class supervisors for the 5th grades trained for 21 hours. It was the same for each group trained by the course workers. And the names of the all the trainees were listed. Why not ask them about the accuracy of the reports? G. Petrova and G. Yerenchenko, 5th-grade class supervisors from the Ust-Shonosha Secondary School, as an example, were in master Yu. Ivanov's group in Velsk Rayon. They told us that they had trained, of course,... under a 15-hour program, that is, only an hour more than the 2d-grade teachers. All of the material was covered, then, in another group trained by civil defense course chief V. Makhotin in Ustyanskiy Rayon?

Ye. Soboleva, party organizer at the Oktyabrskaya 8-Year School, recalled those classes well and could speak with confidence for herself and for her colleague N. Uvarova, responsible for training the 5th-grade students. Yes, their group had studied civil defense... 1 day, or more precisely, 5 or 6 hours.

"You can't get around to everything, and the subject is the same as for the 2d-grade teachers," Viktor Yakovlevich said in response. "They have first one activity and then another in their school even during the winter holidays. And so we were permitted to assemble them for only 1 day."

No permission was required for giving 3 days in the report, however....

And the last lines from the 1979 letter: "The courses have a new mobile club, but it is not used for its real purpose. No log is kept on the work of the mobile club."

There was a log, and there were entries in it. The Kuban' made an average of 3-5 trips per month, and only for a single day. It made only 50 trips during the entire past training year. With days-off this amounted to only 2 full months of work. Furthermore, the mobile club was idle for scheduled maintenance during the entire month of April. The heads of the national economic installations which, according to the log, were visited by course workers, made the required check marks in only 19 cases; there were no signatures in four of them; and 27 (!?) trips by the mobile club were confirmed with the signature of V. Makhotin, rayon civil defense chief of staff. This fact is grounds for assuming that on half of the trips the mobile club was used for other than its designated purpose. How else can we explain the repeated violations of the procedure for logging the activities of the motor transport equipment?

"The log is not always taken along on the trips," Viktor Yakovlevich decided to assert. "I therefore have to sign for all of them"!

"But why did the mobile club make so few trips?" was our next question.

"Not all of the trips were logged: Once again, they forgot to take the log."

It should be pointed out that while the course workers used public transport to visit three of five rayons, the mobile club visited only Shenkursk Rayon in addition to Velsk--they are linked by the fast Moscow-Vologda-Arkhangelsk highway....

The readers will probably agree that the state of affairs in the Velsk civil defense courses today mirror the facts noted in the letter written 5 years ago. The training materials base and such important components of the base as the mobile club and the training ground are poorly utilized; the reports are padded and substitutions are even made for some of the figures; and practically no work is performed in the assigned rayons, although according to all the reports things are going beautifully. Whether due to inadequate monitoring or to a lack of assistance from the leadership in the resolution of specific problems, a practice once used has now become a pernicious pattern. By substituting inflated figures for the actual situation, the rayon civil defense courses have permitted a breakdown in a very important matter.

Naturally, the courses do have difficulties with respect to organizing the work. The Velsk people are not exhibiting any special initiative in the overcoming of these difficulties, however. They should expand the civil defense propaganda. By doing so they would draw the aktiv to them, and the people would better understand that this is a matter of state importance. No one has ever spoken on the local radio, however, and not a single lecture has been presented through the Znaniye society. Only rayon civil defense chief of staff V. Zhitnukhin has published a few comments in the rayon newspaper LENINSKIY PUT'. Civil defense films are shown only in the classroom.

...Another autumn has gone by in Velsk. What will the next one be like? It will be V. Makhotin's sixth autumn in charge of the rayon civil defense courses. The master who wrote us the letter 5 years ago stopped working in the courses

a year later, however. He could not take the accusations of lacking local patriotism: "What is going on? He has to cavil, even though the rayon is in good standing." He began having trouble with his heart, and he left. He is now receiving attention. Although he still feels the pain, he believes that the courses will rid themselves of their protracted illness.

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LACK OF DISCIPLINE EVIDENT IN DOSAAF TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Moscow VOYENNYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 7 Dec 83)
pp 34-35

[Article by A. Solov'yev: "A Sliver in the Eye"]

[Text] Here in the classrooms of DOSAAF's Krasnodar Technical School, in the midst of the profusion of sets and assemblies of modern machines, electric displays and electronic examiners, I recalled by a strange association an old fairytale by Andersen about a snow queen, which I have known since childhood. More precisely, I recalled that part of the fairytale which tells about a small sliver of ice getting into Kai's eye and upsetting many of the boy's ideas.

No, the performance of DOSAAF's Krasnodar Technical School is no cause for any special criticism. The school occupies a modest but very stable position in the kray competition among the defense society's training organizations. Perhaps it has no outstanding successes to its credit, but then it has no evident failings either. It is the typical "average facility"--the very best subject for studying the ordinary indoctrinational work performed in DOSAAF training organizations.

What has been done and what is being done there to implement decisions coming out of the November 1982 and June 1983 Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the AUCCTU, "On Stepping Up the Work of Strengthening Socialist Labor Discipline"?

"We have had no large violations for 4 years now," P. Kechin, chief of the technical school, said in answer to my question. "We are doing a certain amount of work in this area, of course. We have taken some new steps in light of the joint decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the AUCCTU."

When we asked Petr Vasil'yevich to tell us about these "new steps" in detail, they turned out to be traditional forms of work, to be sure. But these forms can also be effective, after all, if they are employed skillfully and creatively.

"We give our attention first of all to the work performed with the masters and instructors," P. Kechin stated. "The cadets look to them, after all, and the

"Do as I do!" indoctrinational method has proved itself extremely well in our school. We have no difficulties with the instructors in this respect. They were all highly disciplined officers in the past. Discipline is somewhat worse among the production training masters. Master Doshtabegin recently treated a cadet tactlessly, for example. He yelled at the cadet and was rude to him. The cadet came to me. And master Paliy was arrested by the volunteer civilian policemen for drunkenness. Such incidents are condemned in the collective, for example, and are assessed from a standpoint of principle. Not everything is always as it should be at our school, of course. We have an auto mechanic who has been found more than once indulging his weakness for alcohol, and we have spoken with him more than once, but...."

Yes, judging from the reports, the conduct of the above-mentioned auto mechanic could be described in the paraphrased words of the well-known fable: And the mechanic listens and drinks. Then there is master N. Rogozin.... It is not a matter of listing names, however. A complete and objective picture cannot be painted with examples alone, no matter how many of them we cite.

In order to understand the overall situation at the technical school we tried to get away from the decision recently adopted by the teaching staff: "All instructors should prepare more carefully for the classes and conduct them more resourcefully, linking them with the nation's life. All masters should learn about the lives and the personal circumstances of the cadets and should visit them at their apartments more frequently. They should not fail to take proper action on a single infraction by a cadet, but especially any infraction committed by a production training master."

Are resolutions like these an adequately effective tool for improving the indoctrinational work? Everyone--from the instructor to the cadet--is covered by a few lines in the resolution. What is meant by "should not fail to take proper action"? "Battle tactics" worked out literally step by step are essential, after all, for a serious struggle to strengthen discipline. There are methods and specific actions for both the training and the indoctrination. These should be defined with absolute clarity in such a document.

If this is done, however, if every meeting of the school commission dealing with the morals and performance of the masters is turbulent and long-lasting and... without results, is it not time to conclude that the campaign for discipline is only a matter of appearance, is only being carried out in words, only formally, only for "checkmarks" in the report?

One other thing: Those in charge of the school attribute "existing failings" not to their own passivity in the indoctrinational work but to a deterioration in the body of cadets. But what could Petr Vasil'yevich Kechin have to complain about? No one is admitted to the technical school without a secondary education, and the young men there are literate and prepared. They have undergone the initial military training course and would therefore be familiar with discipline and military ethics. The situation has a darker side, however, as it turns out:

"You asked a young fellow why he was late to class, and he will tell you frankly that he overslept. Not so with our cadets, however. They will say that they had to wait a long time for a streetcar or something else. Cunning fellows...."

I am not certain, but it seemed to me that I heard a note of caution with respect to the cadet in the technical school chief's words: Expect something bad from him. It is clear, however, that the more undisciplined the cadet, the more urgent it is to apply active pressure upon him.

I spoke with instructor A. Zakharov. An experienced and respected worker, Anatoliy Nikolayevich expressed some indisputably correct ideas:

"Unfortunately, we see frequent evidence that the secondary school is still doing a poor job of teaching the adolescents discipline and independence. As a result, we sometimes receive cadets who have still not grasped the fact that it is his direct duty to society to prepare himself for service in the army. If the instructor is able to generate interest in him, he will study, but if the instructor is unable to do so.... We place the main stress on the individual approach.

I heard the last statement several times in our discussion. It evoked a natural desire to understand how the teaching staff at the technical school conducts individual indoctrinational work with the cadets.

"Could you be more specific"?

"This means that we treat each person individually. When a cadet violates discipline, we keep him after class and have a talk with him. If he does not correct his ways, we call in the parents...."

Are we not too frequently taking the high-sounding term "individual approach" to mean an on-the-spot response to a cadet's transgression, ultimately reduced to the simple principal: "Berate the cadet." When we have done this one-to-one, then we have worked "individually."

But the individual approach is something far more complex. It is primarily preventive action, the timely identification of those tendencies which should be encouraged and those which must be suppressed.

Application of the improperly understood concept of the individual approach and the results are easy to find in the minutes of meetings of the teachers' council. "Cadet Ovchinnikov is very capable.... He was absent 18 (!) days.... He talks in class and distracts the others. The decision: Ovchinnikov is to rectify his conduct within a month. Otherwise, his parents will be called in for a talk." Cadet Akopyan had only slightly fewer absences. It would have been better had he continued to be absent, because he was not studying, himself, and was preventing the others from doing so. Furthermore, he took money from his comrades by threat, as a result of which two of the boys stopped attending classes altogether. Akopyan was dealt with "more severely," however: He was given only 2 weeks to correct his conduct. And he still had to be dismissed later.

In one case they were unable to apply even this simplified version of individual work: The police beat the instructors to it.

The reader has noticed, of course, that the examples cited have little in common with P. Kechin's statement to the effect that there "have been no large infractions at the school for more than 4 years now." But perhaps he has something else in mind when he says "large" infractions? We asked him to show us the records and the study made of labor and training discipline violations. It turned out that the school had no such information. And the conclusion that the number of infractions had been reduced was drawn only "visually."

It was now clear why deputy school chief A. Popov had persistently turned the conversation to a listing of various forms of indoctrinational work instead of answering our question about steps aimed specifically at enhancing discipline at the school. No such steps had been taken at the school, and there was also no plan for implementing any. Questions about violations of labor and training discipline are regularly brought up in the collective, to be sure. They are brought up, however, because the violations themselves, including infractions by the trainees, occur with equal regularity. When master N. Malyuga padded the figures for the number of hours taught, for example, there was a reaction. But was it effective?

Only by preventing and not by correcting infractions is it possible to strive purposively to enhance labor and training discipline. A study and a precise plan of preventive work are therefore essential. In many of the defense society's training organizations this principle has been made the "key point" in the program for the August 1983 decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the AUCCTU. The Krasnodar Technical School, however, limited itself to a single lecture, which was presented last year.

I would remind you that the DOSAAF training organization which we are discussing is in good standing and its chief sincerely believes that in general the school has good discipline.

Is this sort of "complacency" not more dangerous than any extraordinary occurrence, which attract universal attention?

An entire series of infractions are committed for dozens of people to see. In time these people become accustomed to them, and they began to appear almost as a normal development. Tolerance for infractions develops, and there is an erosion of principle in their assessment. Like the icy sliver from the magic mirror which got into the eye, patience ultimately distorts our moral foundations.

And we actually expect the young man to demonstrate real civil activeness and take an attitude of responsibility toward his duty, when he is accustomed to seeing his mentors at times commit "insignificant" deviations from the generally accepted standards, while at the same time uttering in public, when necessary, high-sounding words about ethics, morals and discipline. But this is just what is occurring at the Krasnodar Technical School.

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